

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + Refrain from automated querying Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at http://books.google.com/







·

•

.



.

•

.

THE

L I F E

AND

REAL ADVENTURES

O P

Hamilton Murray.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

IN THREE VOLUMES.



LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR;
And Sold by J. BURD, Printer, in New-Street,
Shoe-Lane.

MDCCLIX:

249. 2. 61.

.

•

.

•

. . .



PREFACE.

HE subsequent sheets contain a faithful narrative of the life and transactions of a young man, who, through the villany of his relations, has been frequently exposed to the deceitful machinations of a set of men whose only god is gain, and the supreme pleasure of their lives centered in that political stroke of sinesse, which, by the knowing ones of the age, is vulgarly called, taking-in.

I need not expatiate upon the meaning of this phrase, as it is already well known throughout this metropolis, and become as necessary in most branches of business to be thoroughly understood as the sour A 2 first

The PREFACE.

Erst rules in arithmetic; though at first it was probably only a cant thrase among horse-dealers, and horse-jockeys, in the practical transactions of their calling: but, in process of time, our young tradefmen, began to look upon it as a necessary qualification; and as they had frequent opportunities to experience its true fignification by their ill-placed bets at Newmarket and Epsom, it is not to be wondered if so valuable a science, and which cost them so dear in the learning, should be fully displayed through their future transactions in their proper calling.

At a time when the passions are in their greatest ascendency, and require the most nice circumspection to keep them within bounds, you will find me (from a taking-in procipie of my guardian) sent to italize a sacrifice, where, not even the statural roughness of the element, could

could defend me from feeling the effects of so useful an art. true it is, that we may change our climate, but cannot change ourselves.

My commencing trader at the instigation of a certain stock-broker. and the ill success that followed. may be a lesson to young beginners, how they fuffer themselves to be deceived by the alluring professions of a false friend. There are many such harpies in this great city, whose only business is to ruin the innocent, and betray the unwary into their fnares.

The article of purchasing a place for life in a public office is now fo much in use, that every young fellow, who can command a little money, thinks himself provided for to all intents and purposes; but let such beware, it is not all gold that glitters; and there are many who will fell them fuch places, who were never in possession of one themselves. This may seem, at first, very strange,

A 3

vi The PREFACE

thange, but after they have men once effectually bubbled, conviction will follow.

I need not fay any thing as n the enormous villany practifed at many of our intelligence and regimer-infices, a late pamphlet having already displayed those harpies in the proper colours, and done them no more than the ftrictest juffice; and. I cannot help observing, that many an innecent family owe their run to those nurseries of deceit and whikedness; and one example I have given in the following theets, will be fufficient to prove, that pesple cannot be too much upon their guard against the deligns of such mercenary wretches.

As the electritying flory is, in all us parts, a reality, I think it incumbent upon me to caution my female malers, those I mean who are posfailed of property, and are either minally, or very near bordering upon upon the verge of old maids, not to put a blind confidence in the amorous professions of young men; for let me tell them, that, though a terrent of flames, darts, racks and tortures, should be made use of thro' the progress of the courtilip, no fooner thall the indiffoluble knot be tied, and matrimony invest the lover with the authoritative power of a husband, than the philm will be removed from their eyes, and they will early be convinced to a demonstration, that one of the greatest antipathies of nature is frozen age, and bucksom, joyous youth.

As the principal intention of this preface is to apologize for the following work, so I hope its author will not be condemned, because the lincidents therein contained may be said to border upon what is called low, and were not transacted at the court end of the town; since I the rather chose to relate facts as they

A 4 really

viii The PREFACE.

really fell to my observation, than in such manner I might wish them to have happened; and therefore, as truth has many advantages over mere fiction, I flatter myself that this narrative, low as it is, will not be unacceptable. Not but I am too well convinced that it has many faults which will call for the indulgence of the discerning reader; but as the curse of scribbling never seized me before, and probably never will again, the candid and judicious will readily make allowances for the transgressions of a young finner, and, with the temper of a primitive critic, where they cannot approve, condemn with moderation.

HAMILTON MURRAY.



THE

CONTENTS.

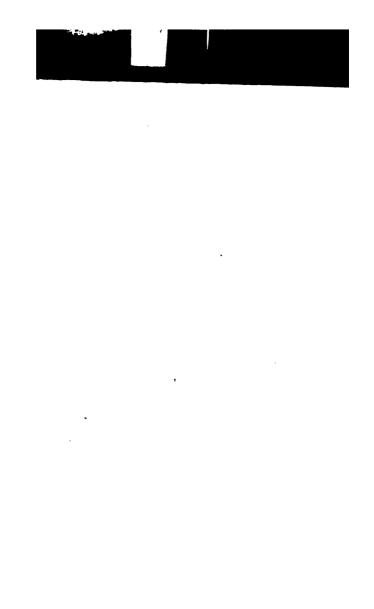
CHAP. I.

State of nature at my production. —
A word to the critics. — Some account of my birth and family. —
Fall under the guardianship of an uncle. — Delineation of him and my aunt. — Am sent to a country boarding-school, and initated in the mysteries of flogging the first day. page 1

CHAP. II.

I make great progress in the classicks, and am constituted censor of the school.—Carry my authority with a high hand, which brings on a conspiracy against me.—They effect my disgrace with the preceptor.—I am discarded my post with infamy. 13

CHAP.



vous disorder, which produces strange alterations.—She adopts a new system of parsimony. — Expatiates on the wonderful virtues of vegetables, and reduces me, by her specifics, to the verge of a consumption.

57

CHAP. VII.

Am reinforced by a new acquaintance.—
He takes notice of my pelican fituation.— Harangues me on the villanous practices of guardians; and, after
promifing to regulate my conduct
upon a new plan, introduces me to a
shopkeeper, who supplies me with money on a remarkable footing.

67

CHAP. VIII.

Raily takes me to a bawdy-house.—
Our reception by the mistress of the mansion.— Are awaked in the night by a horrible noise.— ake a diverting discovery, and over-hear a singular piece of altercation between our hostess and an officer of the guards.—
Make

Make a fally into the streets.— Exercise our talents on an inspired shoemaker, and are committed to the watch-house for a riot.

CHAP. IX.

I embrace my uncle's proposal of going to sea.— Am rigged out accordingly.— Set sail for Holland.— We are overtaken by a terrible storm, and obliged to put into Yarmouth.— Diverting catastrophe of two of the passengers.

97

CHAP. X.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

I am accused of mutiny by the boats-wain. — Am chained down to the deck all night, and tried by a court of officers next morning. — Procure my release at the instance of the chaplain, who is abused on my account. — Improve a hint that is given me, and effect my discharge by the mediation of the surgeon's mate.

CHAP. XII.

I land at Deal. — Put up at a public house. — Qualifications of my land-lady. — Commence an intrigue with Miss Betsy her daughter, which is carried on to the last criss.

146

CHAP. XIII.

Am re-enforced by my ship mate Baudrons.— Visit the Royal Hospital. —
Am diverted with the humour of an invalid. — My companion makes an excursion in the dead of night, which involves

involves him in a very ridiculous adventure. 155-

CHAP. XIV.

We refolve to bilk our landlady.—Take the London road, and put up for the night at Sandwich. — Baudrons commits a fecond blunder, which lays us under the fuspicion of highwaymen. —Great zeal of an Irish tinker, and a recruiting officer on the occasion.—Are overtaken by Mrs. Coaxum, who arrests us for damages; but relieved from durance, by the friendly affistance of some sailors.

CHAP. XV.

We take places in the Gravesend waggon.— A most alarming discovery is made by one of the passengers, which involves poor Baudrons in a fresh torrent of dismay.

CHAP.



CHAP. XVI.

Wherein is related a very fingular adventure that befel me at an inn upon the road.

CHAP. XVII.

Set out on the remainder of our journey.—Our fellow-passengers described.—Several curiosities in natural philosophy are delineated by a quackdoctor, who enforces our credulity by displaying a remarkable branch of his profession.

CHAP. XVIII.

Arrive at my ina. — Am picked up by an old fon of Satan on the Royal Exchange, whom I wound desperately. — Go to a pawnbroker's in Hounsditch, who stops my watch on suspicion of its being stolen. — Procure its recovery by accidentally meeting with a friend.—He discovers the fraudulent practices of that tribe

tribe of men, harangues me on the danger of trusting to appearances, and buys my whole fortune by the lump, for ready money. 200

CHAP. XIX.

Commence a fmart fellow. — Take chambers in the temple. — Buy a horse of great parentage, for which I pay forty guineas.—Go to Epforn races, and win a round fum of money.—Dance with a young lady at a ball.—Lose my watch.—Am taken in by a sharper, and sleeced of every penny.—My fine horse turns out a most egregious bite. — I recover my watch by a strange accident.

THE

To the Binder.

The cancelled leaf in this volume, fignature K 4, page 199, is supplied by the last leaf of sheet





THE

LIFE and ADVENTURES

O F

HAMILTON MURRAY.

CHAP. I.

State of nature at my production.—
A word to the critics.—Some account of my birth and family.—
Fall under the guardianship of an uncle.—Delineation of him and my aunt.—Am sent to a country boarding-school, and initiated in the mysteries of flogging the first day.

OTWITHSTANDING my public appearance in this manblic appearance in this manworld, I do affure my kind readers, that
upon the most exact scrutiny, I cannot
Vol. I. B find

2 The Life and Adventures

find any of those extraordinary occurrences attending my birth, as are frequently adopted by most adventurers who intend to make a figure in print. The moon exhibited the felf-same gracious benignity in her countenance as now, when she appears to our organs of perception and vision about three quarters old, in a clear sky and star-light: the · tides, as tides commonly are when the moon is of the before-mentioned age; neither, by any accounts, do I hear, that the sea overtopped its bounds, or old church-steeples saluted the ground, at the unmannerly instigation of a southerly or a north-west wind. On the contrary, all was calm, ferene, and mild; and nature in the same tranquility, as if no fuch person had been introducing on the carpet: fo that I made my entry into this vale of tribulation with as little colat, as any the most simple clown. But, that I may not entirely deviate from fo long established a custom, and thereby draw down on my offending head

head the awful resentment of some of our mercenary critics, let me relate two very common and fimple phoenomena, which, however natural, may still help to evade the anger of fo tremendous a fociety, and at the fame time keep myfelf in the beaten track of an author: viz. that I had no fooner launch'd from the dark abyss of conception, to fight my passage through a wicked world, and thereby make actual fin fupply the place of original, than by repeated exclamations I feemed to indicate my fensibility of quitting a very comfortable fnug birth for larger quarters; and by a succession of the same, gave ample demonstrations of not being over and above delighted with the change. But when the ceremony of baptism was performing, and the parfon began to bedew my face with water, I could not help testifying my abhorrence thereof, as if I had divin'd it would not be the last time, by many, of my being affaulted by that unstable

B 2 element;

4 The Life and Adventures

element; and which the sequel will prove was truly verified.

Having thus fatisfied the aforesaid Critics*, and thereby convinced the corporation that I am no flincher, and fcorn to infringe the rules laid down by so venerable a body, I proceed to give some account of myself.—Know then, that I was born in the noble and renowned city of Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland, Anno Domini 1734, a quarter past one in the morning, the

* The author, upon better information of the proceedings of that respectable body, has just reason to believe that having no connection, acquaintance or interest whatsoever with any of them or the bookfellers who pay them their weekly allowance, that the above expedient will have no fort of weight with them. And that had he the merits of a Cervantes, a Fielding, or a Smollet, which he professes not to have a tythe of, it would not secure him from the censure of a set of men so influenced and so assuming. But as he has the fatisfaction of knowing that his betters will be constrained to keep him company, he promises them that he will most contentedly, and with the calm ferenity of a Stoic, fit down under the weight of their fentence, and wish them a good dinner.

pole

of Hamilton Murray.

5

pole elevated fifty-fix degrees, thirty minutes; Mercury in Virgo possessing the twelfth house, Venus being retrogade to Leo, and in square of Jupiter; denoting a most salacious disposition, and early dedication to the mysteries of that goddess; together with a bold heart, generous inclination, and some happy scenes intermixt with others the most unfortunate.

I am the offspring of a good family in the forementioned city, which for many years had flourished in ecclesiastical dignities: by which means a considerable sum of money, that for a series of time had been gradually increasing thro' the frugal management of my ancestors, to the amount of six thousand pounds, descended to me and my eldest brother, the only surviving branches of the family, at the death of our parents, who both exchanged this life for a better, leaving us under the tuition of an uncle, who was also a principal member of the church militant.

B 3

Αt

6 The Life and Adventures

At this juncture he was bordering on the verge of his fiftieth year, proud, fullen and avaricious; and regarded all men, whom providence had placed in an inferior sphere of action, as objects not to be put in competition with a person of his dignity. His stature was fix foot, and he had imbibed a peculiar habit of stooping, very probably from his extraordinary attention to things below; and fo firmly were his cogitations rooted on perishable things, that from the moment I came under his care, he put on a pious resolution to convert my personals into the channel of his own coffers. Tho' he was not over and above liberal to any poor and diffressed object, whom he was always fure to threaten with the house of correction in case of an attack, yet, in order to make fome amends for this trivial omiffion, he took all opportunities of thundering out the virtues of charity from the pulpit, withal exhorting his audience to take fingular care in the choice of the oh-



of HAMILTON MURRAY.

objects of their munificence; several idle vagrants abounding in the country, who, from a principle of laziness, he said. rather chose to beg than work: nay, so remarkably nice and fcrupulous was he in this particular, that very few pence took their departure from his pockets on the occasion; and a beggar was as great a stranger at his unhospitable gate, as homely fare at his table. Yet this fanctified piece of formality found means to procure the character of a very able preacher, and also to deceive my deceased father into an opinion of his honest and disinterested behaviour: for on these occasions, by relaxing his features to their utmost longitude, and a canting tone that was truly presbyterian, he did not fail of having due influence on all the old women in the parish, whose blubbering eyes demonfrated the fatisfaction they conceived in his pious ejaculations of laying up treasures in heaven; while in all probability he was himself considering the B 4 like-

8 The Life and Adventures

likeliest method to place out money on a mortgage, at fuch interest as should not fail to over-run the principal in a few years. ——The spouse of this holy teacher had, by the effect of good living, enlarged her person to a fize so unwieldy and enormous as is scarce credible, the circumference of which I found, by an accurate menfuration of ther stays, to be two yards three quarters, wanting seven eighths of an inch: and so much were her whole faculties immerfed in the unrestrained indulgence of Epicurean pleasures, that she seemed to pay very little regard to the repeated doctrines of felf-denial, which her governor used to enforce with an emphasis little short of absolute command. And it feems the good man, by the extraordinary increase of his rib, had the mortification to fee himfelf excluded from all farther communication with her outward woman: and really her latitude and longitude corresponded in so loving a manner, as to bear the same

proportion that these degrees of comprehension exhibit on the equator, while her face resembled a south-east moon in a gale of wind, three quarters old; with the addition of such a ponderous chin, as, for matter of substance, might have made a reasonable dish of lab-scous to a man of war's barge-crew.

Whether it was owing to the natural turn of our tempers, which at this time began to manifest themselves in my brother and me in a feries of boyish tricks and amusements, which in England would be looked upon as fo many fallies of a pregnant wit and lively imagination, but in that pure and fanctified fpot are effeemed the early dawnings of a vicious habit; or whether, which is more probable, my uncle could not brook the fight of two fuch obstacles betwixt himself and his darling mammon, I cannot fay; but we had not been three months in the family, before he fent my brother to sea under B 5

10 The Life and Adventures

the direction of his brother-in-law, who then commanded a floop of war on the northern station, and contented himself for the present by sending me to a country boarding-school, with the master of which he had great sway, on account of his having been placed there by his particular interest and recommendation. - Accordingly in a few days I was pack'd off, bag and baggage, and on my arrival in the country, could not help making many mortifying comparisons between my present situation and my former happy state under the influence of my mother; which were confiderably increased upon being fummoned to breakfast the next morning, when, instead of a falutary dish of tea or coffee, and fome hot roll and butter, to which I had been hitherto accustomed, a ponderous bowl of lobberdominion, composed of oat-meal and shorn-down cabbages, was set upon the table, and furrounded by my fellow-boarders, who devour'd it with as much

of Hamilton Murray. 11

much eagerness, as if it had been the most delicate viands that are to be found at Guildhall on a Lord-mayor's day. For my part, notwithstanding my utmost efforts to the contrary, I could not conceal my chagrin on the occafion; but throwing afide my fpoon, gave way to the anguish that oppressed my bosom, in a plentiful shower of tears. During the course of this distillation, my master entered, and perceiving me at the above exercise, exclaimed in an exasperated tone of voice, So, young man, I find you want fome mother's milk squeezed out of ' your nose, and are lamenting the loss of your wishy-washy tea; but an acquaintance with my gibbons will teach you not to despise wholesome 6 food, and fet up your piping here.' So faying, he seized me by the throat, as a hungry wolf does a trembling lamb, and dragging me to a desk hard by, imprinted fuch a lesson of obedience and refignation on my posteriors, as re-

mained

12 The Life and Adventures

mained in pretty visible characters for near a month, which had fuch an effect on me, that I took care to conceal whatever displeased me ever after.-What this dispenser of stripes meant by his gibbons, was a leathern thong, fplit in two places, and about eighteen inches in length, which he generally carried in his pocket, for the convenience of correcting his scholars, and which he frequently steep'd in stale urine, in order to its having the more influence on their buttocks.—Being now thoroughly instituted in the mysteries of the gibbons, we kept up a pretty tolerable correspondence together for fome time, till by the frequency of our intercourse, it began to have no more effect on my well-disciplined buff, than a fly would have on the back of a camel, or a cock-roach on a corn-field: and at the end of nine months time, I congratulated myself with great joy, on my utter insensibility to its farther infinuations.

CHAP.

of Hamilton Murray. 13

CHAP. II.

I make great progress in the classicks, and am constituted censor of the school.—Carry my authority with a high hand, which brings on a conspiracy against me.—They effect my disgrace with the preceptor.—I am discarded my post with infamy.

DURING all this time, from a principle of felf-pride, left my comrades should get before me in the article of learning, I applied myself with great diligence to my book, and in twelve months more had made considerable progress in the classicks; so that I had now leisure to make several observations on the state of our family, which an inordinate attention to my studies hitherto had occasioned me partly to overlook. It consisted of my master, his wife and daughter, several men and women servants, twenty gentlemen's

, 14. The Life and Albertures

men's fons in quality of boarders, and a very handsome girl, who was niece to my master, and of whom I shall have occasion to speak more hereafter. Mr. - whom, for reasons of state, I shall hereafter distinguish by the name of Syntax, was turned of fifty, and professed the most rigid presbyterian principles: he was morofe, proud and revengeful; and when attacked with fit of the gout, to the tyranny of which he was frequently subject, he raged like a lion in the toils, which was as fure a fign to his scholars of a general flogging, as Muley Abdallah, emperor of Fez, was to his infatuated subjects of some dismal carnage, when he arrayed himself in his bloody-colour'd robes. His wife was what is commonly termed a good fort of a woman, and made us some amends by the affableness of her disposition and sweetness of her temper, for the rough usage we generally received from the furly hands of our governor, who, befides the profits he drew from his school, received

received also no inconsiderable addition to his finances, by acting the part of clerk to the parish; and on Sundays would chant forth the melodious transfations of Sternhold and Hopkins with fuch feeling energy, as fully demonstrated the satisfaction he conceived in displaying the remarkable strength of his lungs at those years. As for his daughter, the was remarkable for nothing so much as for her pious resignation to the will of her father, who every now and then would inflict fome wholesome discipline on her brawn for the good of her inward woman; the which the bore with all the marks of becoming fubmission.

I had now advanced greatly in my knowledge of the Latin tongue, and could read the most difficult authors with the utmost freedom and ease; which so ingratiated me with old Syntax, that I bore the chief place in his good graces, and was in a short time

degrees at the unive business to read pra portion out tasks to classes, and inspect the whole communit indolence or inatten dies, I might acquai fame: who, in fuch rung such a peal on th the found of it feemi their ears for a month a from my frequent obse behaviour, and the re made, I had reason to the delight he took is could proceed from n an extremity of cruelty of disposition

bout, that he took no pleasure in the punishment of an offender; his eyes plainly gave his tongue the lie, by their double increase of vivacity on the occasion. And for my own part, I was so elevated at the respect the inferior scholars paid me in my new station, that before one month was expired, there was not a fingle boy of them but had undergone a tripple chaftisement at my particular instigation; and so rapaciously did I proceed in the execution of my office, that I became an object of hatred to the whole school: and it was their unanimous opinion, that unless they could effect my disgrace with the preceptor, there would be no staying there any longer. cordingly, they devoted their leifurehours to the fearching out for expedients, to bring about their intended purpose, and at last hit upon the following. There was at this time at our school a young lad whose father was a considerable farmer in the neighbourhood, who every

every now and then made Syntax a prefent of a new plough-share, and sometimes a dozen or two of capons, in order to be favourable to his fon Willwhom he designed for the church, and looked upon as a youth of a very promising genius. This behaviour did not fail of having due weight with a man of my mafter's disposition, who accordingly promified to exert his utmost endeavours to make Will a finished scholar, tho' nature had denied him talents adapted to fuch an undertaking, and furnished him with brains cast in the mould of a ploughman, for which the had originally defigned him. This booby, by meer dint of diurnal and nocturnal application, had advanced fo far in classical pretensions, as to have got into Cæsar's commentaries; but whether owing to the pedagogue's impatience in hurrying him to read authors before he understood the first principles of the language in which they were wrote, or that fuch intense study was not

not calculated for the meridian of his fluggish intellects, is uncertain: but so it was, that his digestive faculties were by no means equal to the quantity of Latin he daily swallowed; and in spite of all the mafter's endeavours to the contrary, he knew no more of the principles of that polite tongue, than a cow does of a fign-post. But to return: him they accordingly pitched upon to effect my difgrace; having furnished him with instructions to challenge me to a fingle combat the first time I should take the liberty to reprimand him for negligence or inattention; in which case, whether he came off conqueror or not, it would answer the same end, as the master would certainly take the part of his favourite, to the discharging me from the executive part of a censor, and compliment me with a good drubbing to boot. This defign he foon after put in execution; in consequence of which I dealt him such a confounded blow in the chops, as quickly dislodged three

amazing vociferation.

The pedagogue, who v way off, alarmed at this c ran with the utmost haste of battle, and perceiving in so bloody a condition, with rage, and demanded choaked with fury, who dared to use the boy in t under his roof? when up from all hands that I wa quent, he flew at me with t tyger, and endeavoured to a desk often appropriated to poses, in order to enjoy more unmolested. But I understand

he intended me. This he took as a most heinous aggravation of my crime. and calling together half a dozen of the stoutest boys to his assistance, I was foon overpowered, and bound to the whipping-post, where I underwent a most severe lashing, to the extreme joy of the whole community, so cordially was I beloved by them; tho' neither my master, or those that assisted him in my punishment, had much reason in the end to congratulate themselves upon the victory they had obtained over me, for I fo annoyed my adversaries by a dexterous management of my feet, that fome of them had reason to remember them a confiderable time after. As for Syntax, I found means to harrass him so effectually in those parts, where the gout, his constant companion, took up its residence, that I obliged him to hobble off the premisses as fast as his feet would let him, roaring all the way like a town-bull.

CHAP. III.

By the affiftance of an acquaintance I accomplish a fingular piece of diversion on my master, and make him ridiculous through the whole parish.

EING thus once more on a level with those over whom I had but a little before carried my authority in fo high a manner, I bore my restraint but irkfomely, and refolved the first opportunity to do this tanner of hides fuch a piece of service, as should in some meafure retaliate his late favours. One day, being the anniversary of his birth, he resolved to entertain some neighbours over a bottle extraordinary, and which was always referved for fome fuch remarkable occasion; in consequence whereof Mr. Tickletext the pastor, Mr. Sweepdesk the churchwarden, and Mr. Swagbelly a neighbouring farmer, were invited. I was apprifed of this fome

some time before, and resolved not to let slip so favourable an opportunity to effect my long-intended purpose. communicated my defign to a young fellow, whose name was Dick Savage, an apothecary's 'prentice hard by, who was transported at this rare opportunity. to exert his natural talents, always prone to mischief, and in concert, we projected fuch a notable piece of revenge as might have done credit to older heads. On the night of the entertainment, we found means to convey ourselves into the room a little before the company arrived, when Dick drew upon the wainscoat various figures and characters in liquid phosphorus; whilst I took an opportunity to press into the bottom of their tobacco pipes a small quantity of moistened gunpowder.

Being all feated, the tables furnished with various edibles, and their hearts replete with joy, they began to toss the can about with surprizing velocity, while

while the vibration of their under-isws represented the idea of perpetual motion. At last, the victuals were removed, the pipes lighted, and a very curious discourse set on foot about the nature of lights and colours; from whence, by a transition no ways uncommon, they descended to examine the origin of Cain's mark, and the complection of blacks in the West-Indies; and Tickletext was in the midst of a very learned and elaborate harangue on that subject, when the fiery element in their pipes approaching too near the confines of the gunpowder, which was by no means disposed to brook so near an alliance; the explosion was univerfal, whilst the tables, chairs, and all the materials thereon contained, now tumbled about the room in most tumultuous disorder. During this scene, while all was dark, and the dons in wonderful agitation at the fingularity of so strange an event, Dick, who had taken care to disguise himself, as I had alfo

also done, suddenly stept into the room and set fire to the phosphorus, which instantly conveyed to the astonished opticks of the company these characters in liquid slame: "You are all damn'd "for this unseemly prophanation."

Confounded beyond measure at so unaccountable a phænomenon, the apartment refounded with hollow groans. which were considerably augmented by the application of our feet to the fe-• veral trunks of the proftrate individuals. more especially of Syntax's, which we belaboured fo heartily, that in the extremity of anguish he roared like a criminal on the rack; and by his fuperior exclamations and strength of lungs, foon brought the whole family to the place of action, but not before Dick had made his escape, and I had . thrown a large quantity of brimstone into the fire, by way of heightening the folemnity. As it was impossible for them to entertain the least thought of VOL. I. being

being ferved this trick by any thing human, fo on the first approach of light it was actually the most diverting fight in nature to perceive so ludicrous an appearance as now presented itself to the astonished eyes of the spectators, who were all consounded beyond measure at the occasion of so extraordinary an event: nor did the smell of brimstone, which still raged with great violence, dispel their apprehensions of still being under the same roof with the devil.

After some time, my master recovered himself so far as to pronounce in a hollow tone, "We are all d—n'd!" which was instantly assented to by the affrighted pastor, who had not as yet recovered his faculties of perception, by the word, "Amen!" while the bowels of Swagbelly, unused to such rude insults as they had sustained in the late shock, and in a state of universal relaxation, sounded their accord to the fore-

foregoing comment, in a voice peculiar to themselves, attended by so copious a discharge of effluvia, as quickly supplied the place of the brimstone, with a scent not quite so piercing, but altogether as disagreeable.

At this juncture it is impossible to describe the various phænomena that appeared upon their countenances in a fuccession of ghastly representations, which conveyed to my imagination the condition of the damned as described by Milton; while the whiteness of their complexions out-rivalled the shrowd of a fleeting ghost at moon light. Nay, so confounded were they, upon a thorough recollection of the hand-writing on the wainscot, and the dismal explosion of fulphurous matter which still founded in their ears, and also gave their olfactory organs no small uneasiness, that they concluded they were haunted by the devil; and resolved not to expose themselves to his farther ma-C 2 china-

chinations by going home that night, but remain in constant prayer till morning: at the same time strictly charging the whole family to be extremely silent in regard to the late affair; which, however, Dick found means to propagate, with many aggravating circumstances through all the parish, to the no small confusion of the principals concerned.

In the morning, understanding that my master intended to accompany his guests part of the way home, I took occasion to step unperceived into the stable, and just before their departure, besimeared the posteriors of their horses under the tails with some turpentine, which I had procured for that purpose. They had no sooner mounted than the pedagogue, imputing the skittishness of his horse to the abundance of his mettle, humoured his prances for some time, to give his neighbours an opportunity of commending his horsemanship; but at last,

last, the fiery steed, not digesting his bum-posset kindly, reared his hinderlegs to a stupendous heighth, and dismounted his rider by a method rather too precipitate for his gouty supporters; while his jolly visiters, without the ceremony of "Good by t'ye," scampered off at a furious rate, imagining ten thousand devils at their heels: and before they reached home, had all of them, to a man, undergone the necessary operation of cold bathing in some ponds contiguous to the highway; a circumflance admirably adapted for the more effectually bracing up their relaxed folids, fo miserably weakened by their late fright. In the mean time old Syntax, in consequence of his fall, was obliged to betake himself to his bed, which he kept for a month afterwards, to the great joy of myself and all his dependants.

C 2 CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

The defires of youth grow ftrong upon me.—I fall in love with my master's niece.—Commence a very interesting amour, and carry on a midnight correspondence.

THE completion of this adventure, fo much to my fatisfaction, made me look upon myself in a much higher light than ever: I began to fancy myself more of a man than any boy of my age in the school, and supported my pretensions to that character by fome natural acquirements which as yet appeared upon none other of my cotemporaries. My chin was graced with a few downy hairs, which I fondly dignified with the name of beard; my voice was altering to a graver tone; my muscular strength was greatly augmented, and a more sprightly comportment accompanied my whole individual

dual. I was also considerably advanced in my fixteenth year, and from the healthy fituation of the country, the exercises of riding, and other rural diversions, of which I was particularly fond, had imbibed a large share of strength and spirits, so that it is not at all furprizing, that even at this early age my bosom became susceptible of sensations, of a nature far more interesting than any boyish amusements I had hitherto been acquainted with; while my ripening constitution began to display very evident tokens of approaching manhood, by the fuggestion of certain longing defires and pantings after somewhat, I was fully convinced must be very effential to my happiness. woman, lovely woman! was the apparent cause of this, there was no room to doubt; for upon the least approach of that divine fex, my foul was instantly in arms, my heart dilated with the most rapturous sensations, and every nerve beat high with tenfold vigour.

C 4 I have

I have already observed, that there was in our family a young girl, a near relation of my mafter's wife, whom hitherto I had taken very little notice of, but of late began to regard with peculiar attention, and fancied I perceived numberless charms in her every word and gefture. She was indeed a very handsome girl, tall and well shaped, and had such an air of fweetness and fimplicity diffused in her lovely countenance, as were extremely captivating, and prejudiced every beholder in her favour at first fight: wonder then that my natural desires and warmth of blood raifed her in my imagination to the most perfect of her fex, and heightened my adoration of her to a degree little short of enthusiaftic rapture. I was so taken up in the contemplation of her beauties, that I entirely relinquished all puerile amusements, and from a thoughtless giddy youth became a perfect mope, and moved about as it were merely mechanical.

nical. My charming Sukey Patterson now ingroffed my whole attention: and when I was denied the pleasure of her company and conversation by any untimely interruption, I was perpetually uneasy, and longed for the happy opportunity to tell her how much I admired her. The lovely girl foon perceived my attachment, and repaid my affiduity to please her, by every innocent endearment in her power, and I foon perceived with unexpressible pleafure, that her fentiments were as tender in regard to me, as mine could be to As yet we had been as free in point of any criminal indulgence as the child unborn: but as the poet somewhere observes, "Nature is nature, . " let the wife fay what they will;" it is next to impossible, that two young people of different fexes, and warm complexions, whose boiling veins call loudly for enjoyment, can long be restrained within the bounds of celibacy, and content themselves in tasting the

C 5

ever notions fome pe of that passion, as bei spiritual, and foundec delicate to be intermix grovelling ideas, or re tifications of fense,

that in the constitution rit and flesh are so ag together, that the refi one are absolutely nec alive the fenfations of the fo it was with Sukey both loved to an extrem and longed to taste that known happiness, that wa municated to each other course of the sexes; and wh ginatione Las .

is not to be expected but things were ripening very fast to a favourable criss.

Full fixteen furthers then had crown'd my youth,

With teeming health o'erflowing; gay defire, And twenty thousand little Cupids play'd In wanton whispers round my melting heart. Each tubrous nerve, big with the swelling tide Of ripening manhood, to my soul convey'd Strange wishes; while the channels of my blood Expanded wide, to let the dewy stream Of thrilling joy in liquid rills descend.

As for Sukey, she was at that period of life, when the god of love displays his pleasing influence on virgin hearts, and the fluttering imagination teems with rapturous delusions. But having thus illustrated my own feelings at such a criss, by giving some indifferent verses of my own, I shall endeavour to make the reader some amends by presenting him with a passage from Thomson's seasons, admirably adapted to the case of my lovely fair one in a very interesting situation.

Now

Now from her virgin cheek a fresher bloom Shoots, less and less, the live carnation round. Her lips blush deeper sweets; she breathes of youth:

The shining moisture swells into her eyes. In brighter slow; her wishing bosom heaves. With palpitations wild; kind tumults seine. Her veins, and all her yielding soul is love.

But, notwithstanding I had plied my Sukey incessantly for some time with all my artillery of love, yet I could never bring her to confent to fo close a correspondence as I could have wished; till one time, taking a walk together, and enioving the delightful pleasures of a fummer's evening, I played my part fo well, that love and inclination getting the better of all her timorous apprehenfions, I took the advantage of the critical minute, and tasted in her lovely arms those joys that baffle all description, and of which the unexperienced can have but a very faint idea. scene of our joys was a neighbouring corn-field, where a thousand ears were

witness to our mutual raptures: but such a place being very unfit to profecute our future loves in, we agreed to consult upon another at our next meeting, and go home different ways for fear of creating suspicion; and after a repetition of the former dalliance, in which it shall suffice to say, we experienced the most ecstatic delights, we parted for that time, highly fatisfied at the favourable iffue of our afternoon's ramble. For my own part, I was fo captivated with the joys I had tasted, and so taken up in projecting means to carry on the same charming intercourse. that I paid very little attention to any thing besides; and never ceased, till I had fairly laid a rational scheme for putting the fame into execution.

The bed-chamber where we boarders lay was always locked up at bed-time by the pedagogue; which precaution had arose from some of them formerly going out in the night, and ravaging a neigh-

neighbouring gentleman's orchard; the doors were for this reason always secured precifely at ten, to prevent fuch excursions for the future. This chamber was only separated from the public school by a thin partition, betwixt which there had formerly been a communication by the help of a door-way, which from fome late repairs had long been locked up as ufelefs. But love foon made me take notice of this thoroughfare, which I had never before observed, and to endeavour to convert it to my own advantage. I prudently concluded, that if I could but fall upon a method to have the command of this passage, it would be no difficult matter to find my way through a window in the school, and at no great distance from the ground, to the arms of my mistress, who lay in an apartment far enough fecluded from any in the family, to be in the least danger of a discovery from that quarter.

I attentively examined the door, which was in a dark part of the room, occafioned fo by a standing bed being newly erected near it, and finding the staple very much weakened by the confumer of all things, eafily drew it out; and greafing the hinges to prevent their telling tales, fastened it by the help of a crooked nail till further use. quainted Sukey with this lucky discovery, who was frightened at the risk I run of being detected; but who nevertheless, at my repeated instigation, agreed to receive me that very night. mewing like a cat was the fignal agreed upon for my admittance, but with a particular whining tone, the better to distinguish it from a reality, as those creatures abounded very much in the neighbourhood. Having thus concerted every thing to the best advantage, I waited impatiently for the hour of twelve: which was no fooner echoed through the dormitory by an old crazy clock, that might have been reckoned

At this folemn hour, quit their dreary graves, And in pale moon light glide through churchyards, fraught

With discoveries of weal or woe to man.

Upon giving the fignal agreed upon, I was quickly admitted by my Sukey, who tenderly chided me for my long stay, and protested her fear of my being discovered had almost deprived her of her fenses; but jumping into bed, I quickly filenced her apprehensions by the influence of a close embrace, which had fuch an effect on the love-sick maid, that after breathing out in the most melting strains, "Ah! " my dear! — this is too much!" she fainted away in my arms in a transport of ecstatic joy; while I, all dissolved in the rapturous blifs, imprinted on her ruby lips, that glowed with complacency and love, the fense I had of her divine perfections. This fenfibility of my dear girl operated more powerfully on my amorous constitution, than the most precious composition of incentives, or hal-

baldamick viper-drops, does on a fuperannuated Alderman, when he flies his withered rib, and feeks for relaxation from the cares of the world in the arms of his youthful mistress.

We continued thus in mutually partaking the choicest blessings which the god of love never fails to bestow on his votaries, when he finds them yielding with becoming ardor to the dictates of glowing blood and stimulating nature, till the watchful cock, that faithful monitor to the approach of day, roused us from our scene of bliss, and obliged me, after a parting embrace, to evacuate the premisses for fear of a discovery but not without a thousand tender asfurances of renewing the pleafing conversation the next night. I had the good fortune to return back before any of the family were stirring; and fastening the door and window, I retired to bed, where nature, oppressed with the unaccustomed fatigue and exhaustment of fpi-

fpirits, foon yielded to accept a reinforcement by the kindly mediation of balmy fleep; and I gave myself up to its dictates, with a mind perfectly pleased in having brought this affair to such a favourable criss.

CHAP. V.

In my fecond excursion I meet with an accidental rencounter with Syntax.—Effect another curious piece of revenge on the pedagogue.—Am detected, and obliged to fly the boarding-school for ever.

THE next evening, having been locked up as before, my master retired under a full persuasion that all were safe for that night; and not a little glad he had prevented an excursion upon the 'Squire's orchard, which by the approach of the season, he had great reason to apprehend. But some of

of us, at this juncture, had quite another fort of appetite than to be eating of pears or apples; and I could not help smiling at his ill-concerted precaution, which, from a principle of resentment, made me resolve, as soon as Morpheus should lay his silken bands on my associates, and lock up their senses by the inchantments of downy repose, to repair to the preceding rendezvous, and pass away some few hours much more agreeably than in supine slumber.

Of this I was no fooner informed by the uncouth founds that whiftled through their nostrils, and attacked my organs of hearing from all quarters; than, without loading myself with any other accourrements than a huge white night-cap, I sallied forth in my shirt, and with hasty strides sought the mansion that contained, in my imagination, the very quintessence of all earthly perfection; with whom having passed the night

night in the most consummate pleasure. and given the dear girl several fresh instances of my inviolable attachment. I made what hafte I could towards my own apartment. But in ascending a necessary-house, over which it was requifite to pass, before I could reach the window; just as I had gained the top, and was making a bold push to catch hold of the fell, unfortunately my foot flipt, and I descended with such violence on the cover of this fabrick, that, not being calculated for the tamely stomaching of fuch rude infults, it quickly gave way, and conveyed me to the ground with a celerity, that for a time deprived me of all fensation: but, I was quickly roused from this state of blissful insensibility, by the explosion of a difmal groan, which feemed to iffue in a manner from a person in his last agonies.

Surprized at so alarming a circumflance, it was with some difficulty I gained

gained my feet; when, to my infinite aftonishment, I perceived old Syntax on his knees, half buried in the ruins I had made, and putting up fervent prayers to heaven, in a succession of pious ejaculations.

After he had indulged this motion of the spirit for some time, turning to me with a look that fufficiently denoted the agitations of his inward man: he demanded to know, in a voice scarce articulate, who I was, that by affuming a human form feemed to indicate some important meffage nearly relating himfelf. ' If, continued he, thou art the ' foul of some departed parishioner, who has taken this method to make a difcovery of any hidden treasure, speak-' freely; and be affured, that before ' yonder bright luminary, whose golden beams now tinge the eastern horizon. fhall have withdrawn his all-chearing influence from this fublunary globe,

my unweary diligence shall not fail

' to

- s to fet thy unhappy foul at rest.—But
- on the contrary, if thou art one of.
- those wicked spirits, that, in contempt
- of the most High, have broke loose
- from thy infernal prison, and art
- come with intent to subvert the order
- ' and good management of my family
- by thy diabolical machinations.
- charge thee to be gone; left, by vir-
- tue of my holy function, (tho' by the
- by he was only clerk to the parish) I
- s lash thy unfettered soul with tenfold
- horror back to those adamantine chains
- and penal fires thou hast forfaken;
- ' and with pangs unfelt before, revenge
- this indignity and outrage thou hast
- dared to commit on the person of
- "God's vicar."

When he had finished this wonderful exorcism, which he thought 'powerful enough to shake hell from its inmost centre, regarding me with a look of infinite superiority, he seemed to wait with no little impatience for a disclo**fure** fure of those secrets, wherewith he imagined me to be fraught.

Tho' I could scarce contain laughing in his face at the conclusion of this bombastical piece of rhetoric; yet having but one card to play, in order to prevent a discovery, I laid an embargo on my rifible faculties, and screwing up my countenance into a violent distortion of features, I made him the following reply in a stern, hollow voice, suitable to the character I assumed.

I am no departed parishioner come to enrich you with his hidden treasines; neither am I the devil come to molest the economy of your family; but I am the soul of the tyrant Hesiogabylus, who, affronted that a private man should dare to cope with him in the luxuriousness of his table, has taken the trouble of a voyage from hell through the north-west passage, to leave with you a lasting memorial of his displeasure.' So faying,



faying, I gave him a most confounded blow on the stomach, by way of revenge for the many slogging-bouts he had formerly complimented me with. He had no sooner received this token of remembrance, than all his boasted courage forsook him, and he fell down at my feet, roaring out with all the marks of genuine fear and distraction; while I, taking the advantage of his present disposition of mind, at one bold push reached the window, and after making all fast, had the good fortune to slip to bed unperceived of any one.

By this time the family were stirring, and soon after he was found in a very unsavoury condition by one of the servants, who was accidentally passing by in his way to the stable, and by whom, with proper assistants, he was carried to the house in a state of utter insensibility: so much had his late fright overpowered his faculties. Soon after, his daughter opened the door of our in-Vol. I. D closure,

closure, and informed us that her father had seen a terrible apparition that morning in the back-yard. I affected the utmost surprize, and asked her in a faultering voice, if the house was haunted.

My companions were very fenfibly affected at this infinuation; and observed, that if it were true, they would immediately solicit an audience of leave to return to their fathers homes, rather than run the risk of encountering the devil upon any the least excursion after sun-set.

When we were all dreffed, and, according to cuftom, had performed the
ceremony of ablution, we agreed to go
to our tyrant's apartment, and pay him
our compliments of condolence, the
rather with a view to be informed of
the particulars of his late fright, than
any regard to the being certified of his
health; a circumflance of very little

importance with us his most affectionate pupils. On our approach, it was obvious to every one, that the apparition had wrought a most physical effect on his constitution, in the double capacity of a cathartick and an emetick, by the appearance of certain relicts scattered on the ground, between the backyard and his bed.

He received the speech of condolence we made him, with a countenance not quite fo shocking as he generally put on, and even condescended to testify his approbation of our proceeding, by a most gracious nod, and leave to confecrate the whole day to our feveral amusements, fince he found himself, he said, utterly unqualified for carrying on the business of the school, after what had happened, for that day. And, indeed, so dispirited was he at this instance of Satan's malignity, that I ventured to take upon me the office of a comforter, by infinuating that these were D 2 in-

indeed very terrible doings; but at the fame time telling him, that to a man of his interest and power, it would be no difficult matter to take ample revenge of the fiend, by commencing a prosecution against him in the ecclesiastical court for an assault and battery: and, indeed, by the answer he made me, I had reason to conclude, that his fright had operated more ways than one, and relaxed his brains, as well as his bowels; for he replied: 'True, my child, I will take your advice, and I will also lay this affair before the synod of Glasgow.'

The rumour of this adventure foon got air, and was, by the industry of Dick, quickly propagated through the neighbourhood in the most tragick colours, and afforded matter of no small speculation among the clodpates of the vicinity. Nay, some of those whose precise looks and sagacious observations intituled them to the distinguish-

53

ing appellation of d—nd clever fellows, scrupled not to aver, that the aforesaid apparition could be no other than the soul of one John Dawson, a mealman, who was lately deceased, and whose unfair dealings when alive, they very much feared, had subjected his unhappy spirit to a state of restlessness till the resurrection.

But to return: -By feveral uncommon fymptoms in Sukey, I had reason to believe I should soon be presented with a living testimony of my manhood: and was even in hopes of difplaying to our parish the surprising atchievements of fixteen, which, though attended with some church-discipline, was a circumstance that would have been very agreeable to my vanity, had I not been checked from the pleasing suggestion by recollecting, that however foothing such an affair might be to my own pride, it would be attended by very ferious consequences to her, whose D_3

character must be inevitably blasted by a detection.

But whilst I bent my whole care and study to evade so fatal an inconvenience, I was given to understand by a maid-servant who lived in the house, that she had watched us narrowly for fome time, and was perfectly acquainted with the nature of our transactions. which she would instantly make known to the whole family, loading poor Sukey at the same time with the most abusive fcurrility. Alarmed at this unwelcome affault, but imagining from certain fymptoms which I had heretofore difcovered, that it would be no difficult matter to ward off the impending evil, if certain operations were to be purfued, I made a virtue of necessity, and forthwith gave her to understand, that her person was no way disagreeable to me; and this I enforced with fuch powerful arguments, backed by a proper application of the one thing needful, that I foon

foon put to filence all farther threatenings for that time. But in a course of about three months experiments of this fort, I was constrained to make such frequent application of my specifick, that my vigour failed me, my colour sled, and I was in a very fair way of soon ending my days by a hectick: so true it is, that a too frequent and early addiction to such exercises, restrain the growth of the individual, and unnerve the man.

It was in vain to make any remonfirances to her on the virtues of felfdenial; the evaded all my expostulations by upbraiding me with my attachment to Sukey; and was even so unconscionable as to exact my promise of never having farther communication with
her for the future; which, when I refused
to grant, she slew from me with all the
rage of an incens'd virago, and muttering
inarticulate threats of revenge in the
language of an infernal fury. Being
D 4

thus affured of her intentions, and dreading the confequences of a difcovery, well knowing the exposal of this affair would also bring to light the adventure of the tobacco pipes, and that of Heliogabylus, (for I had foolishly entrusted her with the secret of both) I was determined to frustrate the effects of her refentment, and at the fame time put an end to all farther intercourse with fo infatiable a creature, by leaving the school directly; which I accordingly did, and made the best of my way for the capital, without having fo much as the melancholy fatisfaction of a parting falute from my poor Sukey, and not without shedding some tears at leaving a place where I had experienced fuch a viciffitude of youthful amusements; but yet glad in the main at thus getting rid of an affair which began to threaten me with the most troublesome confequences.

CHAP. VI.

Arrive in town.—Am put to an academy.—My aunt is seized with a nervous disorder, which produces strange alterations.—She adopts a new system of parsimony.—Expatiates on the wonderful virtues of vegetables; and reduces me, by her specifics, to the verge of a consumption.

HEN I entered the city, and found myself as it were in a new world, the manifest alteration of the scene produced a most happy effect upon my spirits. I could not behold so many gay-dress'd young ladies without being struck with a very sensible emotion, and began to make comparisons with regard to the lasses of our parish, which were very disadvantageous to their charms.

On my arrival at my uncle's, I found that venerable personage in his closet,

D 5 fur-

furrounded by an infinite number of pious and polemical authors of the last age; from whence, with the affiftance of a little ecclefiaftical chymistry, he was extracting the very quinteffence of orthodox divinity, in order to ferve it out by retail, at proper opportunities, for the benefit of all whom it might concern.-He was wonderfully agitated at my unexpected approach, as might be feen from the frowns he every now and then regarded me with in the course of our dialogue. He took notice, that he had but a little before paid my full quarter's board, and therefore was determined to fend me back into the country again. However, at length I found means to filence all farther animadverfions on that subject, by thanking him for the care and pains he had already taken in my education, and hinting my defire to ease him of that trouble for the future, by choosing new curators.

This infinuation, quite unexpected, produced a most sudden alteration of temper in my favour. He'no longer darted his eyebrows upon me in the manner as before, but with a very gracious smile, testified his approbation of my behaviour hitherto, and let me know, that fo long as I continued in the same tractable disposition, he should think it a pleasure to fulfil the desires of my late father in superintending my affairs and education: at the same time observing, that he intended to put me to an academy, for the better perfecting me in the accomplishments of a gentleman. I was exceedingly delighted at this latter part of his harangue, as I thought the word academy carried dignity in the found of it; whereas that of boarding-school appeared to me childish and trifling, and by no means adapted to my lofty conceptions.

Accordingly I was entered on one the next morning; and in a short time made con-

remembrance of Su hopes in a short tin figure among the lacement of whose agree conversation I vainly admirably adapted.

But amidst all this when I turned my ey had no reason to con on my late change, eit circumstances.—Unh my worthy aunt was a seized with a violent deje attended by so general attended by so general attended at once under the

effect on her temper, hitherto none of the most liberal, that she set on foot a very laudable and praise-worthy resolution of abridging two thirds of the family expences, in order to prolong the evil day to the uttermost.

This happy thought she immediately put in practice: and notwithstanding all the objections and complaints that were continually made to fo unwarrantable a proceeding by every individual, the nevertheless found means to carry on the same with such unceasing vigour, that in three months time, from a four young fellow of seventeen, hale and lusty, I was reduced to a mere skeleton. My legs, formerly of gothic construction, were now dwindled into the appearance of drum-sticks, exhibiting evident tokens of approaching desolation of the whole animal machine, if not timely supported by more invigorating materials than it had been for some time accustomed to.

While

While I underwent this meagre course of diet, more properly adapted to the enfeebled remains of a beau in a falivation, than a young country fellow of well-ftrung nerves, and a healthy constitution; I had this consolation, however, that my intellectual faculties were in no danger to be overpowered by the fumes of indigeftion, or oppreffed with vapours from an over-charged flomach, and I might certainly at that time cry out with the poet, " a healthy body, " and a mind at ease," if a spare diet could be any ways conducive to exhilarate the spirits, and keep the vessels clear from noxious crudities: or a man's mind can be faid to be at eafe, which is continually put in remembrance of the cravings of nature, by the fuggestions of a hungry appetite.

In the mean time the old lady, far from putting an end to this infirmary allowance, hugged herself in the manifest curtailment of her weekly disbursements,

ments, and was perpetually dunning my ears with her physical quotations, from authors both antient and modern, of the sanative qualities of simples.—For this purpose, cabbages and turnips had a considerable space in the day-book of her weekly preparations; for potatoes she had conceived an infinite veneration; and had found out more virtues in the astringent qualities of water, than ever was imbibed by the Royal Society, or the famous doctor Sangrado of Gil Blas discovered through the whole course of the materia medica.

Nay, to such admirable perfection had she arrived in this physical art, that she could demonstrate to a day, when such and such vegetables would be attended with the most benefit to the constitution. Pease, indeed, she frequently would observe, were very simple and harmless food, provided they were converted into nourishment at a proper juncture: but then at their first coming

in feafon, they were fo full of moift and watery particles, that at fuch a time nothing in the world could be more prejudicial to a youthful digeftion. The only time to eat them, fhe faid, was when they should be somewhat older. and be reduced to a little more hardness and consistency: then, indeed, they might be used with pleasure and benefit, and be a means of strengthening the folids by a double increase of mastication; fo that the only time to eat peafe was when no body else would touch them, that is, when they were hard, withered and fapless, and funk at least two thirds in the price: at fuch a crisis we might eat a belly full of them, and welcome, taking care, however, not to frustrate their falutary effects upon the habit by the poisonous infusion of maltliquors, which she was used to obferve was one great cause of that general declension, both in growth and years, which was handed down from father to son, and from generation to gene-

generation; till in the end posterity, she doubted not, would experience the reality of Gulliver's Lilliputians, and become more like pigmies than men. She would frequently affirm, with an emphasis that almost carried conviction in its sound, that all family compositions, wherein pure element was the principal ingredient, such as water-gruel, slummery, broths, and small-beer, were things of themselves extremely innocent, and at the same time could not fail of being attended with the most salutary consequences to the human fabrick.

But all these flowry animadversions were lost upon me. I turned a deaf ear to her most pathetic remonstrances; and by my surly behaviour on the occasion, gave her to understand, I was in no humour to adopt this new system of philosophic abstinence, or include her avarice at the expence of my own belly; more especially as the huge circum-

Whether this reply car more truth in the conclu really imagined it did, or l carrying on an argument for opposite to every one's exp concerted her effrontery, is but she henceforward desiste farther mention of that fub tenting herself in faithfully a the practical part of her pi mination, with fo little abate I was in a fair way to disp. the world the genuine appeara moving skeleton, without putti to the unnecessary trouble of : to forgeon's hall for a view c presentative.

CHAP. VII.

Am reinforced by a new acquaintance.—
He takes notice of my pelican fituation.—Harangues me on the villainous practices of guardians; and after promifing to regulate my conduct upon a new plan, introduces me to a shopkeeper, who supplies me with money on a remarkable footing.

In this melancholy fituation I was one day addressed by a young fellow of the same class, who had for some time sobserved my dejection, in this manner: 'Look ye, Murray, I am amazed that a young fellow of any fpirit should skulk about in such a lubberly manner, while he might enjoy life to advantage, and revel with freedom uncontrouled in all the joys of youth and beauty! But I see you are a poor pitiful mungrel, and would rather be trissing away the precious

moments in construing typho, typso,

e tetypha, than toffing off a tankard of

hot negus, or being lulled a-fleep in

the arms of some kind fair, after hav-

ing paffed an hour or two in the most

delicious dalliance.'

Perceiving me to stare at this romantic address, he went on: 'Yes, my boy; and if you'll take the trouble to call at fix at my chambers, I'll introduce you to a fet of as choice bona robas as ever broke the feventh commandment fince the destruction of the temple, or the days of the pro-6 phet Nathan. None of your precise fqueamish b-s, whose mouths are full of scripture, and their hearts of unnatural lusts; but girls of spirit! who profess an infinite veneration to the expressive command, Increase, and multiply: and by their implicit obedience thereto, fully demonstrate he fatisfaction they conceive in doing homage to fo divine a precept.

He

He then observed, that as it was to be the first night of my introduction to life, I would do well to call for a crown-bowl of punch and a supper to treat the company with on my first appearance; as such an action could not fail of having due weight, and might preposses me in the favour of individuals, while the nymphs would outvie each other in expressions of unlimited fondness: a circumstance most devoutly to be wished by every beginner in the mysteries of oblation at the shrine of Venus.

This eloquent conclusion put an effectual stop to the many agreeable ideas my imagination began to conceive at the commencement of his harangue; and I told him, with a look that sufficiently expressed my chagrin, that I was extremely mortisted to find myself incapable of sharing in his pleasurable amusements.

----- ir I ha 6 breath upon an ei 'phrodite all this t 'it.' I replied, as to he need be under ne that I was as good a fons of Adam; but 1 fland, that so far from mand of fo immense crown, I had not evi of the sum he mentic should scarce be foun fields, at a time when tian world had though the decays of nature by a good dinner, but rat half-famina

no inconsiderable figure at our table, particularly on fast-days, such as that was, and which were always regarded by the matron of the family in the most literal and christian sense.

He expressed a most friendly concern to be thus made acquainted with the low state of my finances; and observed, that ways and means might be found to remedy this inconvenience. and oblige my uncle to refund. this was a circumstance which had long puzzled me to no purpose, I begged him to acquaint me with it, and he should quickly see I would not fail to improve the hint to the best advantage. On this he took notice, that it was a shame a young fellow of my fortune and expectations should be in any want of that necessary article cash, when there were fo many ways to be furnished at an easy rate, in so populous a city; affuring me, that he had helped many a young heir before now to the possesfion mer or then own pockets.

mation, I told him, if fucl that could be brought to means, I should look upon best friend I had in the wo beard says he, yes, yes, the least room to doubt of its you'll follow my directions Suppose, you go to a who der, or shopkeeper, of which great plenty in this city, which ing up ten or a dozen pout of the most saleable common credit, (which you can easily the sall common told he sall common to the sall c

by which means you can always be fupplied with cash, and at the same

time oblige your uncle to agree to a

handsome allowance of pocket-money,

by way of prevention to fuch necessa-

'ry proceedings for the future.

I liked this way of arguing so well, that the very same day, by the industry of my new friend ORaily, for that was his name, I was introduced to a considerable dealer in toys; and before we parted, had come to so good an understanding together, that I received in a watch, rings and other trinkets, to the value of thirty pounds, for which I gave him a draught on my uncle for that sum, payable three months after date, with a particular one of my own, in case of non-acceptance, leaving this honest man extremely satisfied at the transactions of the day.

Upon waiting on us to the door, after some little hesitation, he hinted, Vol. I. E that

that if at any time I should have occafion to part with those commodities, he could recommend me to a particular friend, who made it his business to purchase such things at second-hand, and would give me more money for them than any body else in that way.

I was glad to hear him mention this, and directly told him, that as my pocket at that juncture was at a most dangerous ebb, I should be glad to find a purchaser, who would take some of them in exchange directly for ready money. My friend O Raily, at the same time, rubbing his hands as in ecstacy, pretested, that if he could oblige us in that particular, he would set him down in his heart; and if ever he forgot the favour, most cordially wished, the devil might seize him.

^{&#}x27;Nay, gentlemen, quoth the toy-'man, as to these matters, d'ye see, 'tis 'no business of mine in the least, I only 'men-

mentioned the affair, with a view to oblige the young gentleman, in case he should have a mind to dispose of them at any time; and, as I said before, purely to recommend my friend to a customer in his way: but if you want to see the person, I can send for him presently, you may slip over the way to the coffee-house, and he shall call upon you in a few minutes.

Accordingly we went, and foon after were waited upon by a very meanlooking man, who, I afterwards found, was no other than his own journeyman, After furveying the particulars, he declared they were very good of their kind, that they were; he could fay nothing to the contrary, not he; but that he could not afford to give any high price for them, as so many second-hand commodities were to be purchased every day at half price, which with a little vaumping up would ferve his turn fully as well. But in regard that Mr. Paste had recommended F. 2

mended him, and in hopes of retaining my custom, he would so far overstretch himself for this once, as to bid fifteen guineas for them; and certainly, if I considered the length of time he might keep them upon his hands, it was a very reasonable price.

I was wonderfully displeased at this injurious proposal; but in the end, rather than stand out, and the fellow advancing to twenty pounds, I was prevailed upon to take his money, tho' not without feeling some very disagreeable reflections on my hopeful way of commencing dealer.

But my friend foon found means to filence all farther cogitations from that quarter, by observing that twenty pounds was no contemptible sum in a young fellow's pocket, and that I might thank God I had found out so happy an expedient to supply myself, without being

being obliged to my rascally uncle, and then bid me consider it as a loss which must naturally happen now and then in the course of business.

Elated at this homely consolation, I was about to retire; but recollecting that I was in gratitude bound to return this obligation in the kindest manner, and perceiving by some loose hints, that fuch a thing would be no ways difagreeable, I insisted on his acceptance of a couple of pieces, as an instance of my regard; which, after a great many feeming evalions, he however pocketed, fwearing most cordially, I was a d-n'd clever fellow.

I was wonderfully delighted at this flattering observation, and looking upon myself in a very fair way of soon being a Buck of the first order, went home in the most rapturous state of exaltation my spirits were capable of E 3 .

exert-

exerting, without touching on the verge of lunacy.

The pleafurable fituation of my mind added fresh vigour to the circulation of my formerly languishing fluids, and the fudden acquifition of animal vivacity, occasioned from some wine we had drank over the bargain, displayed fo carnation a livery over my countenance, as was foon taken notice of by my penetrating aunt at home, who did not fail to attribute so agreeable a change to the enlivening and balfamick qualities of her liquid preparations. But I was far from agreeing with her as to this instance of her self-interested obfervation; and took notice, that what the was pleased to confign to the superabundant prevalency of her nostrums, was in reality owing to the more influencing particles of some curious boiled chickens, of which I had made a most delicious repast, at the house of a bosom-friend.

I then

I then gave her to understand, that I was resolved to remove myself by habeas corpus to fome other house, where I should not eternally be put in mind of Pharaoh's lean kine, or the powdering hospital for contaminated whores, by fuch abstemious banquets; observing that several of the faculty had given it as their unanimous opinion, that a farther continuation in this water-gruel diet would infallibly bring on a violent flux, which would be productive of a relaxation of the whole nervous system, and then farewel to turkies, chines, and plump fucking pigs, with which I henceforth determined to regale myself, in order to make some amends for the many fastdays she had obliged me to keep: in a word, being quite intoxicated with the wine I had drank, and the thought of being master of so much money, rattled her off so effectually, that she called up the maid to her affiftance, threatened to acquaint my uncle with E 4 my

CHA

Raily takes me to
Our reception by a
mansion.—Are aw
by a horrible noi
verting discovery,
singular piece of all
our hostels and ar
guards. — Make a
streets.—Exercise ou
inspired shoemaker, a
ted to the watch-house

that for two whole hours I had not power to withdraw myself from the agreeable scene; and at last came to a resolution to exchange the whole into crown-pieces, with a view of making the more pompous appearance in my pocket.

When I had put this notable design in practice, my next care was to proceed forthwith to the lodging of my friend Raily, whom I found at home anxiously waiting my arrival. Upon communicating the discourse I had held with my aunt, he fwore I was much in the right, expressed great satisfaction at the spirit I had exerted on the occasion, and observed, a few days more in his company would infallibly brush off the flovenly airs I had imbibed in the country, and display my latent talents to admiration. In the mean time, fays he, let us make use of those we are at present blessed with, and spend the night like gentlemen.

E 5 With

With this view we bent our course to a house he often frequended; and on our way thither, he let me know, that the place bound for was the best adapted for the intercourse of love, of any in town; as being a house of call for the young and gay of both sexes; that girls of sifteen, and old maids of every denomination, here found a never-failing antidote for vapours and green-sickness; and that, to use the language of London, we could be supplied from the degree of a milliner at the courtend of the town, to a humble bunter in Moorfields.

I listened with singular attention to this curious harangue, and upon entering the premisses, had reason to believe, he had not exaggerated in his description; for the priestess of the mansion, who, in idea, exhibited the appearance of a wool-pack, perceiving a new face, asked Raily, if I was a young physickbroker come up to town to study the secrets

fecrets of nature? and then addressing herself to me, told me I had come in the critical minute, for the had at that juncture under her care a she-patient of fifteen, troubled with flatulencies, with a high pulse, pouting lip, and velvet skin, whom I might have an opportunity to bleed in the jocular vein for a small fee; at the same time giving me to understand, she was full of love, and seady to undergo any operation I should be willing to practife on her, and that her price was a guinea without deduction. As the finished these words. ' Here, Clarissa,' says she, 'call Miss Pa-• mela down! ' And on a girl's answering to that name, 'Come hither, child, • don't be asham'd, but salute the gentleman! Poor thing, how she blushes! 'Lord what a delicious morfel 'twill be! I'll warrant her, upon a nearer e acquaintance, she'll pleasure you to a hair, and wriggle herself to your * liking with the endearing twines of an. enraptured bride.' But I was by no means

means fatisfied as to the impartiality of her account, when upon giving me a kifs, fuch an infernal fleam of gin exhaled from her mouth in the embrace, and went clear down my throat, that my flomach could not fland the unfavoury flock, but quickly returned the compliment by difcharging the whole quantity of folids and fluids I had that day swallowed; and by a thorough evacuation acted the part of the most effectual emetick.

This action produced a very fensible alteration of muscles in the countenance of the old bawd, who could by no means comprehend its meaning, but stood staring in the room like a cow at a sign-post; till Raily found means to rouse her from her trance, by thundering out, 'D—n your blood! you 'old Catamaran, what is the meaning 'of this usage? Do ye think to palm 'your rag-fair b—t—hes upon us for 'sound fillies, by the stale artisice of a Cla-

Clariffa, or a Pamela? Or rigging them out in the tawdry pomp of a white

'flag and a canopy? But I fee how it

is: you begin to despise your friends!

6 fo take your loufy reckoning, and

'may I be d-n'd, if I ever after set

'foot within your house again!'

Having faid this, he was lugging me along with him with all expedition imaginable, when the old bawd, unwilling to lose so good a customer, in a very submissive manner, implored his excuse, and begged us to walk up stairs, where we should be furnished with titts to our liking, if her name was Strumwell. At the same time apologizing for the girl's eruction, by obferving she had only swallowed a little garlick and gin that morning for the cure of a cholick she had fallen into. occasioned through the violence of a late salivation. But the matter did not rest here. She was so fearful of having disobliged my friend Raily, that she called

called for a large bowl of rack punch, the better to fecure a reconciliation, and infifted on treating us both with the fame in fuch a torrent of noify eloquence, that our refentment fubfided, and all thoughts of going away for that night were laid afide.

This our hoftes took so kindly, that she jumped about the room with the agility of a rope-dancer; after having in repeated bumpers drank Success to whoredom, Damnation to matrimony, Confusion to maidenheads, and a wish that every whore in the kingdom might ride in her coach and six, and that no honest woman should dare to show her face, with so prevailing an energy, as fully demonstrated the remarkable desire she had for the verification of so agreeable a change.

When we had thus once more fettled matters on an amicable footing, we passed some hours very pleasantly, till about

about four in the morning we were awakened by fo hideous an uproar, as. if all hell had broke loofe, and was come to carry away our landlady for her many aggravating fins of permif-Alarmed at fo fion and commission. unseasonable a disturbance, we jumped out of bed, and fnatching up a candle. made the best of our way to the kitchen: but in descending the stair-case, happening to stumble against a door on the left hand, it quickly gave way, when to my infinite aftonishment I foon perceived my uncle's fon in a very indecent posture, beating time to the vibrations of a pair of brawny femaleb-ks, which were elevated or depreffed according to the various exhibitions of a blind fiddler in the corner. who was echoing through the room the antient tune of "Merrily danc'd the " quaker's wife, &c." on an old crazy viol.

Con-

Confounded beyond measure at fo unexpected a fight, more especially as the party concerned had procured a high character by his demureness. I was some time before I could credit my optics; till Raily observed, that what I was fo furprized at, was no ways uncommon, as the business my pious cousin was engaged in was only a charitable effay towards the conversion of a finner by the half blood; withal, exhorting him to graft his admonitions in the most prevailing manner, for that his patient would not fail to return the compliment, which he might perhaps find the first searching weather: at which he locked the door on the outfide, and left the affrighted delinquent in a state of universal trepidation; while his paramour most cordially d-n'd our blood for our unmannerly intrusion.

On entering the kitchen, we found the tumult proceeded from a very furious altercation between our hostess and

and a young officer, who was every now and then faluting her with the title of tinker's trull, and fink of the mob: while she, on the other hand, honoured him with the appellation of loufy puppy, and petty warrant dog. 'We all know, continued she, the importance of a ' trifling enfign of foot, whose pay, infread of affording his bottle and "w—re, is hardly sufficient to keep him 'in ruffled sleeves and small-beer, and 'yet the monkey must smell p-s! We have many fuch customers as vou, and be d-n'd to you! And ' what with the untowardness of some b-h-s, who, after three months ' hard keeping, can hardly be brought to know their business as they ought to do, and the incroachments of fuch ' scoundrels as you, this laudable and ' praise-worthy occupation must fall to 'the ground.'

As she spoke this, her bosom heaved with over-slowing passion, her eyes glared

glared in her head like two balls of fire, and advancing towards her antagonist with the look of an infernal demon, the gave him to perfuative a falute in the chops, as quickly produced a very copious discharge of the irascible particles of this fon of Mars, who no fooner perceived his precious blood distilling from his crest-fallen face, than his bluftering courage forfook him, and he only pronounced in a faultering accent, 'O Madam! this is mighty well, d-n my b-d! but all's one for that. I fhall take care to re-4 member you, blast me!' He was then moving off in no little hurry, but missing his sword, soon found to his infinite vexation that it had been feized for the reckoning, and was even obliged to trudge home without that necessary ornament at his posteriors, till he should redeem the same by a fresh draught on his agent.

By this time it was almost day; and not choosing to triste any longer with our kind partners, we determined to make a fally into the streets in quest of adventures, after having been reinforced by three or four choice blades from the same quarter, remarkable of late for their singular atchievements in demolishing sign-posts, breaking lamps, and knocking down the watch.

We had not proceeded far upon this expedition, before we met with a certain shoemaker, who had taken it into his head to commence preacher, and actually fancied himself inspired. This was an opportunity that was not in our then humour to be passed by. The alarm was instantly given by Raily, on which half a dozen of us laid hold on this limb of the church, and clapping him into an empty sugar-barrel, which at that juncture stood very opportunely at a grocer's door, we gave him so curious a rotation through half the town,

town, that the poor devil was difabled from mounting a rostrum for some time; and we afterwards heard, that in his next sermon he entertained his audience with the relation of a very strange and surprizing dream, he had experienced during his abode in the machine, little inserior to the visions of Mirza, but altogether as much upon the wonderful, to the no small edification of the gaping crowd.

Having transacted this notable exploit, we fell to work, and in a short time made so great an alteration in the face of business, by transmogrifying a tallow-chandler's sign into a bookbinder's, and a cobler's to that of a publican, that in the morning it afforded matter of no small surprize, to see above a woollen-draper's shop these words, "Sea-coal, char-coal, live-coal, "small-coal, and small-coal dust, sold "here, wholesale and retail at reason-" able rates, by Timothy Smokesace;" while

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 93 while a filk-mercer's exhibited the appearance of a nightman poleman's.

But we could not continue long in this riotous life undiscovered: for one night, in consequence of a violent disturbance we occasioned in the streets by attacking a party of watchmen upon the patrole, we were overpowered by numbers and carried before the mayor of the city, who committed three of my companions to durance, as old offenders; and after giving me to understand, that such another exploit would oblige him to use me in the same manner, discharged me for that time; but transmitted an account of the whole affair to my uncle in the most tragick colours.

To add to my infelicity, about this time, several demands came upon me for debts, contracted in the course of my debaucheries, which my uncle absolutely refused to discharge; observing,

that my expences already had confiderably exceeded my annual rent, and he was in no mind to make any fresh disbursements on that account; at the same time reading me a very severe lecture on the necessity of embracing a more sober and christian deportment for the future.

He then took notice, that fince I had, by my folly and extravagance, reduced myself to this pass, I must chuse the alternative, either of going to sea, where a youth of my abilities could not fail in a few years to arrive at the command of a ship in person; or otherwise run the certain risk of being thrown into gaol by my creditors, in which case he should be in no hurry to relieve me, till I should fairly pay off my debts, and also give convincing tokens of a sincere contrition for my past folly.

When he had delivered himself in this manner, he let me know, he should expect

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 95

expect my final answer in two days, and then left me in a more serious frame of mind than I had experienced for some time.

In this diffress I had recourse to my friend Raily, communicating my difficulties, and defiring his advice, which I looked upon as orthodox: but that faithful adherent, hitherto, no fooner perceived how the land lay, and that he had no farther prospect of profiting by my intemperance, than he kept aloof, and in a very cold manner advised me to embrace my worthy uncle's proposal of going to fea at all events, as my creditors must be paid, and there was a necessity to retrench. When I took notice of this sudden estrangement, he evaded farther expostulations on the subject, by pretending great losses of late in gaming, and defired me to lend him five guineas; no doubt with a view to prevent the same demand upon him.

him, which, by feveral broken words, I had already hinted at.

But I was not fo shallow as not to fee through this artifice; and taking fire at his behaviour, left him in great anger: and next morning, reprefented him in fuch a light to my uncle, that he complained thereof to the magistrates, and he was ordered to leave the city and liberties in twenty-four hours. on pain of having his back adorned with the arms thereof in capitals. For it was now discovered, that besides the money he had received from me at different times, he also went snacks with the fellow I fold my goods to, by way of broker; and that I was not the first of a hundred he had led into fuch scrapes, by his diabolical machinations.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

lembrace my uncle's proposal of going to sea.—Am rigged out accordingly.—Set sail for Holland.—We are overtaken by a terrible storm, and obliged to put into Yarmouth.—Diverting catastrophe of two of the passengers.

BEING thus deprived of the company of my companion, whose absence, notwithstanding his late usage, I could not help regretting: dunned by my creditors, and avoided by all those who had formerly courted my acquaintance, I became deeply dejected; the town grew irksome to me, and in a fit of melancholy I waited upon my uncle, and let him know, I was willing to embrace his offer of going to sea, provided I was to be supplied with every thing necessary for the voyage.

Vol. I.

F

He

He was wonderfully delighted at my ready compliance, applauded my refolution in an extraordinary manner, and, not to let this promising humour cool, instantly sitted me out with a compleat set of those uniforms which constitute the dress of a gentleman sailor on shore.

My shoes were remarkably short in the instep, so as to display to the best advantage, a fet of elegant silver buckles of the first magnitude; and my fineholland trousers of fix yards circumference, by the neatness of their plaitsworkbehind, did no little credit to the operator. My hat was observed to be always braced up sharp upon a wind; whilethe waving of my fine India handkerchief, represented the shiverings of a head-fail in the stays. And so assiduous was I in my new calling, that in a few days I could talk of nothing elfe, but bunt-lines, braces, leetch-lines, and clewgarnets, with a whole train of navigable mate-

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 99 materials, which I had industriously collected from the authentick reports of feamen long-used to the service.

Being thus compleatly equipped in every point, I waited as impatiently for the hour of embarkation, as the enraptured bridegroom for the departure of those who by an obsequious intrusion protract the happy minute which is to give him the full enjoyment of the yet untasted beauties of his panting bride; and by that time the signal for failing was given, I had advanced so far in the principles of my profession, as to drink profusely, smoak and chew tobacco, and even pronounce the emphatical expression of d——n my b——d, with a tolerable accent.

Our ship was bound to Holland with a loading of tobacco, where delivering her cargo, she was to proceed forthwith in ballast to Virginia. This trip was the rather fixed upon by my F 2 uncle,

And if a head fea chance to tip me qui mises, he could then enjoyment of my forte

Two things he strong to the observance of the ob

For the first two day the inconveniences that a landmen on so unstable which was considerably in thundering pale cal-

of fafety, the usual sickness which commonly attends those who are not accustomed to the sea, obliged me and a noted imuggler to flink off the deck. and betake ourselves to blanket bay. in order to obtain, if possible, a more competent share of ease than was likely to be enjoyed above board. Here as we lay, comparing the similitude of a fmuggling and a sea-faring life; the one as being exalted or debased at each. turn of fortune, the other at every shift of wind, and copiously discharging our stomachs of that malignant virus which occasioned our present uneasiness, our ears were saluted with an exclamation the more intimidating as being accompanied with a most mournful and dolorous conclusion. This was no other than the man at the lead, who every now and then fung out in dying strains, and in abundance of semiquavers these words. 'A-a and a-'a-qua-a-arter ten,' as intimat-

F 2 ing

.....tountable a pl think no less than tastrophe would be had scarce time to conjecture, when the imuggler's hammoci floned by the violer fetch, fuceeeded by the was quickly thi -middle of the adjaces received such damage that his spirits sorsook upon his knees, he n 's spare me! Lord spare loving kindness exten finner! and may I be

if I ever commit for with Bess Mettle before

of Hamilton Munnay. 103

· Iwear my confeience in the course of a future entry: Amen.

This extraordinary petition, accompanied with as fingular terms of future amendment, wrought so powerfully on my risibility, that, notwithstanding the extreme sickness I then laboured under, I burst instantaneously into a most ungovernable sit of laughter, which occasioned so violent an explosion of the noxious matter locked up in my bowels, attended with the most excruciating twitches in the lower belly, that in a manner I lay buried in it, roaring all the time like an ox in the slaughter.

For three long hours we continued in this perplexing fituation, till the wind shifting about, in a short time we made the piers of Yarmouth, and before night were so far land-locked, as to bid defiance to a north-wester, which then began again to storm with all the rage of an incensed element. At this

F 4

happy

and about to and fair weather: grown myself on tl Thew I was not a member of the focie lity I mounted the f vane at the flag-staff descent to the crew dollar with an air tha markable conviction. portunity might be k the present jollity and a fubscription was inst: for the more convenient fums forfeited by all never seen the tributa and an unfortunate tay. subscribe to this amicabl had his 1.

terrorem of all whom it might concern; which operation had a quite different effect on this brother of the thimble, than is confiftent with the approved notions of immersions in general, for as cold baths are commonly used by way of astringents, this on the contrary was observed to perform the part of the most solvious to every one, by the perfume that saluted their olfactory nerves on his ascent, that there had been a copious discharge, and that such kind of balsamicks, were to be found elsewhere than in apothecaries shops.

F 5 CHAP.

A C H A ProtX.

o to spond side on Solin

We are visited by a preffing tender.—
The lieutenant of the gang points me out for a king's man.—I endeavour to procure a repeal with money, but am frustrated in my purpose by bad policy in this particular.—He is prevailed upon to become my banker, and is characterised by a quarter gunner.—We arrive on board the Æ——a, and are entertained by a singular adventure.

BUT we did not long enjoy this ferenity, and had foon reason to alter our jovial mood, to that of a more serious, when we were given to understand by some sishermen along-side, that they perceived a sail in the offing; which by her broad pendant could be no other than a ship of war, in which case, some of us would bid fair to dance

of Hamilton Murrhy. 107 a jig to the musick of a boatswain's whistle and ratan before night.

Of this we were in a fhort time rulefully convinced, when a fifty-gun ship actually brought too in the bay, and fent her long boat out compleatly manned, and in full stretch for the harbour. On their approaching our ship, I was about to retire between decks, in order to avoid any expoliulations with fuch a group of infernal objects as then presented themselves to my view, armed with piftols, cutlaffes, and mulquetoons; but was told by the captain, that as I had embarked in the fame bottom, I must stand an equal chance with the rest of the crew, at the same time ordering me to step into the waift, and present the red ropes to the lieutenant, who mounted the side with the pride of a city mayor on a procession. He had no sooner got upon deck, than he addressed the skipper, and demanded an account of his cargo, ton-

tonnage, and number of hands; and observing, that his Majesty had occasion for a large quantity of seamen, desired him to make no concealments,
for if you do, says he, we shall bring
you to the gang-way, d—n me.

The captain taking no notice of this unmannerly falute, begged him to ftep ninto the cabin and drink a glass of wine, when and where he should be fully informed of each particular. He was just preparing to put this advice in practice, which had confiderably foftened his/features, when he fpyed me, strutsting the deck in my holland trousers, and a scarlet vest I had that day put on, in order to make the better appearance. on fhore. At this, he started back in - no little surprise, and eyeing me attentively for some time; exclaimed, 6 Oh, 'd-n my b-d! who have we got here? one of your Italian fingers 'I warrant you.' Then calling up the coxfwain, defired him to overhawl that there

there figure, and if so be as how he found metobe no mophrodite, to hand me into the barge, for that I would do purely to fill up the net-work in close quasters.

Thunderstruck at this infinuation, and more especially when I perceived the coxswain going to put his orders into practice, I lugged out my purse, and stepping up to the lieutenant, told him I was no seaman, as by my dress he might reasonably imagine, but a gentleman's son sent to sea by my uncle for a facrifice; then clapping the money into his hand, begged him to excuse my service at that juncture, but rather to put me ashore directly that I might make the best of my way home again, the better to disappoint my worthy guardian in his villanous intention.

Having said this, I was in full hopes to succeed in my request, more especially as he took my purse, which I presented him with a low bow, and many

during his inspection

At last, shaking b temptuous smile, ! . Why now, this is den my blood! e gentlemen, the affa dog. With these fe do se see, he was t eastempt my honbur stachment to my g who, will never di e repeating the Inike of furveying the guineas strention: duan m will never do, you hav foundings hellishly. 1 feoundrels midhe & co

of Hamsey on Murbley. set

- tridge, whose honour, them me, is sufficiently established by his per-
- fonal prowefs in the last war, deann
 - 'my blood.'

He then with an air of contempt threw me the purse, which he observed I might have occasion for one day or other, and advised me as a friend, to lodge it in the hands of fome men of henour on board; where it would be much safer than with a person in my station, from whom some dextrous hand would certainly steal it before I could be three days in the ship: and constorting me with the prospect of perhaps being advanced to a yeoman of the dog's nippers, a birth, he observed, was charmingly calculated for the meridian of my subberly complexion.

I expressed great forrow at having thus unwittingly given him such cause of offence; declared my ignorance of any gentleman on board who would

ď

At this he scratce like Beachy head like Beachy head ferved there were me on board; but as to says he, do not say he, do not say addressing the coxfe the young fellow's question?

On this, Jack obser a pity to loose such a it in a scoundres's har might beat the seas to before I could clear ha and took notice, that if only be so lucky as to phonoring the such seasons.

took the hint; and after a deal of intreaty he agreed to keep it for me himfelf, telling me, we were like to have a glorious war, during which if I behaved myself like an officer, I should be talked of.

While the lieutenant was below drinking a farewel glass with my quondam captain, and I was busy in getting my cheft and bedding into the barge, a sly looking fellow who was one of the quarter gunners, took that opportunity to ask me how my guineas stood affected at present, and how I durst presume to affront the lieutenant by publickly offering him a paultry bribe.

I told him I had no intention to affront any man aboard; that what I did was with a view to effect my own discharge, and wondered what could put him into so violent a passion.

O ho.

क्ष्याद्वाद्याः Chave known him be finto the beggett ag and for what? why f little gold dust bore u of his day-lights in that he could not dece windward of it, with fanc honour of his o sope. Had you bore u him at once, and sipt without fo much jaw, sif he had not pocketed and immediately fent you ' land lubber. Whereas es you ask for your money belay you to the mast, a with a round dozen for a

さい の日日は日本の一年

for picking a poor fellow's pocket geneely, "fach leoundrels as he will live, while honester men may go to hell or starve."

"Why do you hear me now? he has cleared upwards of five hundred pounds within these few months in the same raf-cally manner; while here am I, d—n my limbs, who have served his Ma-rejesty's honour many a year, as you may see, only a lousy midshipman at last. But on board our bumboat, he is king, priest, and prophet; and has more to say than the captain."

I was wonderfully taken with this fellow's spirit, and invited him to drink a glass of rum, of which I told him I had plenty in my chest at his service: but he was prevented from accepting my agreeable offer, by the arrival of the lieutenant, attended by five more presented men, of which the aforementioned taylor made one of the number, and had

clapt thereon, and n to the cook's use for

As, he spoke this and I could perceive t approached the ship, were the countenances sufferers, most of who such dismal notions of that they actually fangoing to hell before the

But we no fooner cannot the poor taylor her and swearing of the board perceived the number busy in weighing the augrest owner.

foul, roared out these words in the northern dialect, wringing his hands all the time in the most expressive forrow: cares my fell, for this day, cares my 'fell, for ever! Cauld's the cry will be on the straps of Musleburgh, the night. 'Cauld's the cry for poor fohny Baudrons! He then threw himfelf at the captain's feet, and begged for the pasfion of Christ to be put ashore; at the fame time pulling out a paper, which he faid was a true copy of his indentures, wherein his honour would find, he had ferved three years apprenticeship to Dugal Macpherson of Clackmanan Pu. the taylor; and had never been a failor in all his born days. But he might have faved himself this trouble, for the captain understood no more of his lingo then he did of Hebrew: and asked the lieutenant what the scoundrel meant by holding out that there damned scroll.

On this, Cartridge recollecting that our ship had been bound to Virginia, then turning to the cheer up, for that he bilbo this bout: Yo faysher the fee and the same th

But the poor, fellow nested at being looked and, in the vindication of blabbed nout fomething, a reasest on the commands dring out, 'D nyou ye chatter?' ordered the belay him to the jears, a round dozen for his jaw we ingly her was stript to the instant, and underwent so

This punishment, as sudden as it was severe, wrought such an effect on the poor taylor's intellects, that he was no sooner disengaged from the whipping-post, than slying up to the captain with the rage of a bedlamine, he pulled out a halfpenny, and threw it in his sage, with these words: 'I citation you, you, 'captain Luciser, by the weigherast of, this bawbie, till appear within two ours 'afore your makker, for gyden; ony onest man's chield, in sikinna bleedy of the port holes, and threw himself overboard in the greatest distraction.

It; happened very lucky for him at this juncture, that a boat was just underneath, in which was one of the hands employed in bailing out the water, who finding himself boarded in so unexpected a manner, exclaimed with great passion. 'What ho! are you coming there? 'here's Scarborough warning, danner, with the devil and all! hand over, 'the

- * the runner and tackle there; I'll be
- curst if a sea monster han't clapt me
- on board this minute, with claws like
- 'hands and feet, like another man.' He then lugged out his class knife, and putting himself in a posture of defence, was preparing to make some very curious dissections on the body of the unfortunate Baudrons, had he not been prevented by an order to sling him to a rope, and let him be hoisted upon deck directly.

Undoubtedly the man in the boat had confiderably broke his fall, for his right shoulder was only dislocated, and some trisling contusions appeared upon his head: which however augmented his pain so much in the dressing, that he bellowed like an ass in a high wind, so that he was obliged to be sent down to the cock-pit, to clear the deck of his noise; but not before the captain had ordered his back to be anointed with some pickle, by way of preventing.

a mortification, which increased his agony so intolerably, that he exhibited the various contorsions and wreathings of a rattle fnake with furprizing velocity, to the no small edification of the commander, who fwore he should dance to the second part of the same tune, for a month of Sundays; still repeating the word citation, which he could neither understand, nor digest. 'I do suppose, as how,' fays he 'the dog means to bring me to Doctors Commons: I was once ferved fuch a loufy trick before at * that place, to the tune of some hundreds; but I'll take care of fome body, blast me. The dog shall smell oackum once a day, and feel it too, else my ' name an't Buffalo, that's all: I shoudn't have thought of citation, d-me, and from a taylor too!'

While I was observing these transactions with great attention, and forming some reslections in regard to my own situation, a boatswain's driver complition. I. G mented

'yourthieving irons u
'help to rouse in? w
'arn't as yet in your
found this kind of
tremely prevailing, tha
his orders a single m
work directly.



CHAP. XI.

I am accused of mutiny by the boatfwain.—Am chained down to the deck
all night, and tried by a court of
officers next moraing.—Procure my
release at the instance of the chaplain,
who is abused on my account.—Improve a hint that is given me, and
effect my discharge by the mediation
of the surgeon's mate.

NE night as we lay at anchor in the Downs, I came upon deck, in order to enjoy a few minutes in contemplation; a circumstance I had seldom any opportunity to indulge in, on actount of the more than infernal noise and bustle that constantly surrounded me on every quarter: but at this juncture, being a fine calm, and about the hour of twelve, all things were more than ordinary filent; and unless the seatle mountaining of the sea against the

124 The Life and Adventures

the ship's side, and the snoaring of a few hands upon the watch, most of whom were asleep, I had nothing to disturb my meditation.

As the fore-castle was the sittest place for this purpose, I took up my station there; and had wandered over in my mind from one subject to another, till at last I fell upon a passage in Hamlet, which seemed so applicable to my present situation, that being wrapt in thought, and ignorant of the consequences, I bawled aloud these lines in an exalted voice, which I accompanied with all the attitudes of a tragedy hero.

'Tis now the very witching time of night, When church-yards yawn, and hell itself breathes out

Contagion to the world — Now could I drink hot blood,

And do such bitter business, as the day Would quake to look on.—Soft —

The boatswain who was then walking the main deck, and had listened with singu-

fingular attention to my whole behaviour, no sooner heard these terriblewords, and perceived the menacing posture I had affumed, than he very fagaciously concluded that some conspiracy was on the carpet. Full of this thought he drew near, foftly on his tiptoes, and foon heard me repeating over the same lines again with vast energy, which indeed had taken my fancy very much, as the stillness of the night, and the twinkling of some lights from the shore, served greatly to augment the solemnity of the scene. Convinced beyond a doubt that there was certainly a defign a broaching, he jumpt up with furprifing agility upon the forecastle, and feizing me by the gullet, put a very disagreeable stop to another speech I had just begun, by crying out, 'O ho, 'you cou'd, you dog, fend us all to 'hell in an instant, could you? but I'll take care of one, howfomdever, d-n 'my whistle. Yo ho, abaft there, call 'all hands directly, here's precious do-'ings G a

's shan't all of us be pump thunder, in a

At this exclamation crouded forward in the and being told by the there was certainly a drun the ship on shore, catched one of the rigoing to set fire to the alarmed the officers and instant, and dragging a single down to one of the farther examination.

As I lay in this condit

- fpectable officer, do ye fee, with a defign
- to blow us all to atoms, and are to be
- tried by a court-martial for mutiny as
- foon as day. D-n me, you have
- done for yourfelf now to all intents and
- e purposes, and will be tricked up to the
- 'yard-arm without bail or mainprise;
- that's all that's all.'

In the morning, the captain, attended by all his officers on board, formed a circle on the quarter deck; and having commanded me to be brought aft, ordered the boatswain to relate what he had to say against me. On which my accuser, after taking a quid of tobacco out of his pouch, and filling his mouth with it, began thus.

'May it please your worshipful honour, it was my watch last night at

twelve: I was walking the main deck

'very foberly, when I perceived this

here gallows-looking dog chattering

to fomebody at a great rate, and ber G 4 'ing



• I heard this Scotchn "there! now or ne " drink their blood. " we'll do fuch a pie " daylight shall tren had a deal of mor church-yards, and On this, knowing of pressed men on popt into my brains how they had a defigi moorings; and as the erly, let her drive ash ing ought to any bod their escape, at the ex a ship as ever spread thinks I my boys, I et Reeftackle alone

alarms the whole watch upon the inflant; but it was so hellish dark, the rogues, I do suppose, took that oppor-

tunity to sculk down the after-hatch-

way, and left this here villain to pay

the reckoning.

The captain turned pale as death at these words, and in a faultring accent addressed the company thus: 'Why, egentlemen, do but observe, here was evidently a design on foot to butcher 'us all, every man and mother's fon of us, by G-d! These Scotch sons of b-t-es were always a mutinous e pack from the beginning of the world, 'and their d-n'd rebellions lately, shew 'plainly what kidney they are of:' then turning to me; 'You hell-fired dog you,' fays he, 'what have you to fay, why we shoudn't tuck you up to the yardarm without judge, jury, or benefit of clergy?' The lieutenant then advised me to turn king's evidence, and impeach my companions, as the only G 5 way

do impeach the do impeach the deme, blow honour. I knew fome of these octune: I shall so to the Lords of serviceable person mand of a ship the devil call all woul?

The captain's cler to read out the fum deposition, on which lows: You, Hamilto man, are brought b able court, on the a

- contained, aided and affifted thereto.
- by certain land-lubbers unknown:
- what have you to fay why judgment.
- flould not be pronounced against · you?

'May it please your honour,' says I, turning to the captain, 'and these gallant officers in council affembled. I can by no means comprehend the reason of eall this commotion: all that I can • fay of the matter is this, that I came • upon deck last night about twelve; e and was indulging some minutes very agreeably in contemplation, when I was rudely interrupted by the evidence, who used me most barbarously, only for pronouncing in an innocent and thoughtless manner, a few words I had recollected from the celebrated play of Hamlet, written by our famous poet Shakespear, as being ' in my happier days much delighted with tragedy: 'Yes, d-me,' fays the beatswain, 'so it appears you were; and

• we

132 The Life and Adventures

we were like to have had a pretty tragi-

cal piece of work of it also, hadn't I

been too many for you.'

I was then ordered to tell in open court what words I had faid, and to whom I addreffed them: on which I repeated the foregoing lines verbatim, and told them I was not speaking to any body, but only amufing myfelf, ' Not fpeaking to any body! ' fays the cap-' tain, 'why then it must be to the devil! D-me, I recollect to have heard once, when I was but a youngster, that one of his Majesty's ships was transported some hundreds of eleagues by fuch another nobody as this fcoundrel was confulting with. and all in the compass of one night, and nobody on board knew how, or which way, till they fairly found them-· felves in Plymouth Sound, for which the fhip was condemned to be burnt down to the waters edge for a wizard. But who is this Hambleton and this Jack

Spear

- Spear you chatter so much about,
- where be they? produce them, you
- eternal dog directly, or by the living
- God I'll divide thee in the twift."

It was in vain to tell him, that Shakefpear was a poet and wrote the play I mentioned, and that Hamlet was the the principal character in the drama: he infifted it was all a d-d lie, with an obstinacy peculiar to himself; roaring out all the time, that the two fcoundrels should be brought to the gangway, whom he fwore must certainly be fome of the chief conspirators. 'D-me,' favs he, 'I ought to understand something of tragedy too, I have been at fome pretty tragical work in my time. by G-d: when no longer ago than in the last war, at the bold action in the Mediterranean, under the command of Admiral - I, had three gold laced hats carried away by the enemies fire, my weather-leg shot through in three places by their small arms.

- 3

ing fons of bman out of his
impudent jaw of
tainer.

I was now oblige fubmit to the mere which informed me which informed me vours to expect, fince clare my confederates; they were about to fer irons to be dealt with a when a boat came aloughore, in which was a the ship, who seeing all folemnity, requested to fon; and being with the ship.

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 135 that there was no treason or mutiny in

that there was no treason or mutiny inthe case, by producing the book from which the very lines had been repeated.

But the captain, who was extreamly conceited, and thought his understanding affronted by this infinuation, would hear him no farther on that subject: but bid him be gone off the deck to his cabin, and fumble over his old stale fermons, and not bufy himself about what was entirely out of his latitude. This was a fufficient encouragement to the boatswain, who, enraged to find the honour of the day going thus to be fnatched out of his hands, came up close to his ear, and seizing him by the foretop, cried out, 'I'll tell you what 'Mr. Domine, you nor all the devils in hell shall ever persuade me but there was mutiny in the case, ay, and d-'d mutiny too. What! I ' fuppose you are some popish jesuit in difguise, and have a fellow-feeling • with dogs of the same kidney: but

4 had

· vellel. D—me, I'c

He then lugged in violently by the he made him reel about top; and would he fame game much long chief mate whispered it was carrying thing thereupon ordered him at the same time advision to trouble himself about matters which the fame time advision in the fame time advision for the fame time advision to the fame advision to the fame time advision to the

boatswain publickly asked his pardon for the late affront, and the poor fellow (meaning me) should be discharged: which the captain at last thought sit to grant, after desiring me to hold no more jaw-work with the devil on board his ship, on pain of being keel-hawled; and the boatswain, in high dudgeon, told me I should have reason to curse father and mother, and turn Turk, for this day's proceeding.

Indeed I had soon cause to believe he would not be worse than his word; for the very next morning, under pretence of having the main-top-gallant-shrouds tarr'd, although it was then my watch below, he called me up, and telling me that to spill the least drop in the operation, I had better be d—n'd, sent me alost to perform that disagreeable job, while he conducted me himself as far as the soot-hook-shrouds, where making some stand, on account of the falling back of the rigging.

138 The Life and Adventures

ing, he belaboured me so heartily with a rope's end, that in the agony of pain, I was constrained to heave the whole bucket of tar full in his face, which put him in such a trim, that he roared in concert, and swore most consoundedly that a Scotchman was certainly the devil.

Another time, for some trisling fault, he lashed me up to the weather-shrouds, where I stood eight long hours with my face exposed to the attacks of a north-east-wind in the middle of March; and in a word, he found so many methods to verify his promise, that my life was intolerable, and I began to have some thoughts of watching for an opportunity of jumping overboard and dragging my persecutor along with me.

In this diffress I was given to understand one day by a young fellow, a retainer to the cock-pit, that if I even

ever had a mind to effect my discharge. I would do well to make application to the furgeon's mate, who, for a trifling consideration, would enter me in the fick lift that was to go ashore the next Monday; adding, that if I was once a-ground, it was my own fault if ever I came there again: for he had overheard the boatswain threaten to beat me to stockfish. I thanked him very heartily for this falutary advice, and defired him to drink a glass of rum; but in looking for the small chest it was in. I found the whole, case and all, had been pillaged fince my arrival on board, of which some broken pieces of the lid, whereon my name was engraved, convinced me to a demonstration. However, I was very glad to find they had not meddled with my cheft wherein was my clothes and gold watch; and I refolved to make no mention of these, lest Mr. Cartridge should be for keeping them for me also.

140 The Life and Adventures

In confequence of this hint, I took occasion to slip down next morning into the furgery under pretence of getting a piece of falve for a fore finger; and while the mate was very complaifantly cutting it for me, as not doubting the truth of my errand, I teffified my furprife that a soung gentleman in his flation should wear check shirts, while little petty warrants were flaunting it about in their ruffles, and begged him to accept of a couple of mine which had never been worn; at the same time defiring his advice how to extricate myself out of the troublesome dilemma I was in. I did not flay for his advice after having faid this, but I ran to my cheft and brought out three Holland shirts, with as many cambrick neck-cloths. which I put into his hands with great submission, and applicating very much for my freedom.

I foon found I had taken no improper method to fucceed. He received my

١,

my present with great pleasure, and with a smiling countenance, addressed me as follows: 'Come, my lad, I 'find you are a gentleman, and some-thing must be done for you speedily.' Let me see — Ay, you must have the 'itch, the better to deceive their op-ticks; and if that won't do, we must

clap you into a raging fever for some

* time. Do you take me?'

I was very much disgusted at these violent methods, and hinted my unwillingness to have any thing to do with severs, as having some months before been almost carried off with one. At which he laughed heartily, and gave me to understand, that what he meant was only an artificial one, brought on by clapping a little clove of garlick into my fundament, which would raise my blood into such a state of fermentation, as might deceive the whole faculty; but, says he, I believe we shall have no occasion for this experiment.

He

142 The Life and Adventures

He then made me throw off my jacket, and bare my arms to the full length, on which he chafed my skin in such manner that it looked like a piece of raw-beef. When he had rubbed me sufficiently as he thought, he put on a layer of gunpowder, which he insufed into my skin by friction, and after serving my breast and thighs in the same way, observed I had got a most damnable itch and scurvy, and there was a necessary to send me ashore speedily, in order to keep the ship's crew from being tainted with the infectious distemper.

I now thought proper to mention my money in the lieutenant's hands; but he advised me to touch upon that ftring as little as possible: for if he found I wanted to withdraw it, he would infallibly stop my going on shore, in order to make my life a burden; whereas now, says he, if you are quite silent, he'll be glad of your going,

my present with great pleasure, and with a smiling countenance, addressed me as follows: 'Come, my lad, I 'find you are a gentleman, and some-thing must be done for you speedily.' Let me see — Ay, you must have the 'itch, the better to deceive their opticks; and if that won't do, we must 'clap you into a raging sever for some time. Do you take me?'

I was very much disgusted at these violent methods, and hinted my unwillingness to have any thing to do with severs, as having some months before been almost carried off with one. At which he laughed heartily, and gave me to understand, that what he meant was only an artificial one, brought on by clapping a little clove of garlick into my fundament, which would raise my blood into such a state of fermentation, as might deceive the whole faculty; but, says he, I believe we shall have no occasion for this experiment.

He

144 The Life and Adventures

This was touching upon the right ftring. He made me drink a share of a bowl of punch with him before my departure; and at going away, he accompanied me to the gang-way himself, and prevented me from receiving some very convincing tokens of affection, which my good friend the boatswain was preparing to compliment me with on this occasion.

As I had just got into the boat, the poor taylor, whom I have heretofore mentioned by the name of Baudrons, seeing me in this happy situation, approached the gunwale, and after shedding abundance of tears, addressed me thus: 'My dear frien, ye are nu gangin till a quintra, like the laund of Canaan, su o milk and hinny, an faar peer Johny Baudrons manna ne mare bouden himsel to pluck the green gowin—fan ye sal get a sittiniament upo the Laund o'Cakes, dinna forget to gee my kine service to ilka body faas

- faas names are pitten doon upo this
- bitty o' paper, an lat them ken, at
- they wid need to hae unko braw ein,
- an ever they fee me ony mare, for
- lang afore they read the guts o' this
- eletter, peer Johny Baudrons will be
- a caller meel's meltit for kitty weeaks
- and fea meaws.

Having faid this, his bosom heaved with tumultuous passions, his eyes were drowned in floods of briny tears, and I myself was so affected at this mournful and melancholy scene, that, notwithstanding my present excess of spirits, I could not help expressing my concern for him in a sympathetick shower, so much had the poor fellow's dismal greeting affected my passions; and on our way to shore, I so earnestly recommended him to the surgeon's mate, that he promised to stand his friend the first opportunity.

Vol. I. H CHAP.

146 The Life and Adventures

CHAP. XII.

I land at Deal.—Put up at a public house.—Qualifications of my landlady.—Commence an intrigue with Miss Betsy her daughter, which is carried on to the last criss.

THEN I had once more fet my V feet upon dry land, I looked back to the Downs with infinite joy, to think I had so happily got rid of my late infernal quarters, and gazing on the ship, which was then mounted on the top of a rifing furge, 'Farewel,' fays 1, 'thou inhospitable dwelling! " farewel thou boifterous element ! and fare thee well, thou still more boilterous captain Buffalo! And oh! forbear to exercise farther thy Frannick fway on the body of the poor unfortunate Baudrons, lest you force that unhappy wretch to feek refuse • from thy barbarity in the briny deep! 'And for myself, may I henceforth · never

never behold thy detested face again, or hear mention of thee more, unless perchance, I should encounter thee in thy progress to Execution Dock, or peruse thy detested name in some friendly paragraph of news, as a victim to the revenge of thy offended country, for having disgraced the glory of the British slag, by thy barbarity and cowardice, for cruelty and fear, are thy distinguishing characteristicks; which with gross ignorance and most consummate pride, constitute thee at once a prodigy of wickedness and folly.'

Having given vent to the emotions f my heart on this occasion, I turned ay face from the shore, and entered he town of Deal, where I resolved to est a few days before I set out for ondon: with this view, I took a lodging at a publick house, and for the first ime since I lest Scotland, began to enoy the sweets of life.

H₂ I foon

than one, she had ver verted the back part a pawnbroker's shop, ter Miss Betsy, mafuccess among the sai took care that the st those occasions, shoul native quarters, by pleher customers with ste the nature of a public

I had not been ma house, before I found such a convenience in like this, for as most o nev had been loss.

It was not long before I observed there was another branch still, in which they carried on a considerable trassick, and it was this, that neither mother or daughter would scruple to let out their persons to any obliging customer, for a a consideration: this I was given to understand one day by my landlady herself; who, after praising the good qualities of her daughter, proceeded thus:

*But take care, you young leering rogue, you don't fall foul of the poor chicken, for should you, mercy on me! I know not what would be the consequence, for women, you know are frail when objects are tempting, and then—but I'll say no more, tho' one thing I must whisper in your ear, that she vows, so she does, that if she can't have a sailor, she never will marry another man in her life: God's blessing attend the sailors wherever they go! they are the strength of the nation in peace, and its defence in H 3

venture to oblige;

' least fear or risqu' husband was a sail

' failor, and it is by

bles their honest

' Coaxum, with all he

Thus she ran on so an hour, in repeati virtues of sallors; and tinued much longer; from a supposition that number, had not Miss her by stepping into the obligingly inviting me ner; and who, during t

I now began to fancy that all this kind usage could proceed from nothing but their opinion of my being a gentleman, and with this thought, I took occasion for the first time, to pull out my watch in order to convince them to a reality, that they were not wrong in their conjectures: as this was a moveable neither of them had yet seen, I could perceive their to opticks enlarge themselves in a particular manner at its production, and at last fairly settle on the meridian of the fame in a fixt posture: no doubt, being drawn fo violently towards its centre, by the attraction and virtues of the metallick particles whereof it was composed: my pride was very agreeably flattered at feeing them confider it so attentively: and after observing to them, that it was a family piece, and had been made by one of the greatest master's in England, I put it into the old woman's hands, with a desire to give the swivel-pin a fmall shove, by means of which, I told H 4 her. hear it repeat t

This discovery derful effect: she praises of its weigh vast energy; which very great recomm terlarded her whole; several new coined to respect, which she every other word, a turned it me back, honour, now this shought at first, must neas! Such a paul fail to mortify my variations of the several new coined to respect, which she every other word, a turned it me back, honour, now this shought at first, must neas! Such a paul fail to mortify my variations derived with some the series of the several near the series of t

* gine.' Such a declaration made her ftare, she very submissively begged pardon for her mistake, and shrugging up her shoulders while I put it in my fob, observed, 'Well, God forbid I should 'advise you to part with it at any rate; 'though I believe I could wish you to 'a certain person, who lies but in the 'next room to you, who would make 'you ample amends for it,'—learing at the same time towards her daughter, for whom I must own, I had by this time conceived some small affection.

When I got to bed, I could not help reflecting on the old woman's hint, of Miss Betsy's laying in the next room to me, and this thought operated so strongly on my imagination, that I lest my pillow about one in the morning, and explored my way in the dark, in the hope of finding an agreeable bedsellow; and indeed I soon found I had no reason to repent of the tryal, for the dear creature's door was kindly lest H 5 upon

a present of a triffling however diminished i in the purchase, th convinced à few more turns would soon com supplies by the expensione new moveable.



CHAP. XIII.

Am re-inforced by my ship-mate Baudrons.—Visit the Royal Hospital.—
Am diverted with the humour of an invalid.—My companion makes an excursion in the dead of night, which involves him in a very ridiculous adventure.

WHILE I thus basked in the sun-shine of Miss Betsy's affections, who poor creature, was the most forlorn soul alive, whenever I was out of her company, more especially if I carried my watch withme, for which she had lately conceived a most singular attachment; I was one morning very a greeably surprized at the appearance of my shipmate Baudrons, the taylor, who had profited so much by a hint given him from the cockpit, that he had procured his enlargement, at the expence of a large

Ing an apparition, land him that very dition of pocketting furprize.

I was much pleaf counter, as I should with a very entertainin my journey to London I proposed setting out

The poor fellow wa at having so luckily est that nothing would serve a girl, and an immed the shrine of Venus, as

whose love had already devoured my whole stock of moveables, I made no scruple to transfer a part of my present abundance to the happiness of my friend, and promised to let him supply my place for that very night, at which he testified much thankfulness and satisfaction.

But before night came on, our curiosity led us to enter the Royal Hospital for sick and wounded seamen, where the sirst object that presented itself, was a sailor going to suffer the loss of an offending member, for a disorder, which though easily contracted, yet discovers itself in more strange appearances, than any other incident to the human body.

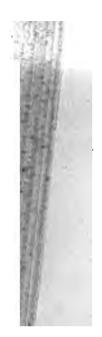
The surgeons had already got round him, in sull preparation to do business, while their patient lay extended on a bench with a rueful countenance, and gazing about in a most wistful manner. This state of suspension however did

fuddenly, made a furi wards, and with great claimed, 'Avast! a 'ther's, avast! do take feamen for once in a thow you should splice preventer braces here, stays, don't you thin it? I've seen many a fore now, brought in ing: what sayst thou right?

Here the furgeon to there was an absolute 1 putation, the better to p sequences, that must of while one of his must

means to let himself be docked, observing the mast had already given way in the partners, and would certainly broach too with him, though under a ballanced mizzen: this account was far from being satisfactory to Jack, who immediately cried out, 'What, not one 6 inch? carry all away?' and being told not one, he started up in a transport of rage, and declared, he would fee them all d-d for a parcel of good for nothing scoundrels as they were, before any dog there should clap their can-hooks upon him. 'What!' continued he, 'to lose my ⁴ precious limb, for want of a topping-' lift, or a bob-stay? I'll be d-n'd 4 first.

When he had testified his dissent in this manner, he rushed forward to the door-way in great fury, but used so little caution in the steeridge, that he overset the whole apparatus prepared on this occasion; while the principal operator, not having timely notice of



wards that member, of the invalid, who his bolt-sprit would out a flying jib for and then made the b London; where he r in such moving terms of St. Thomas's Ho undertook the cure, as ed it, at the expended bridge of his nose, as order in the palet of his he sustains to this day.

At night, when we apartments, I found more may companions inflamm for much by

plexion exhibited fome very uncommon fymptoms of vivacity, and he begged me with great importunity to make good my promise, by suffering him to assume my birth for that night, when he doubted not, he faid, 'to mak it e geud, at the deel a da Teeler in aw 'his Majesty's Dominions, was sik a clever chield at the exercise o' the nee-'dle.' Being resolved not to baulk his fancy, I gave him the proper direction. as to the bearing and distance of Miss's room door, and while he explored his way thither in a state of joyful expectation, I composed myself very deliberately to fleep.

But Morpheus had hardly time to make any impression on my eyelids, before I was aroused at the tremendous cry of murder, which Baudrons, who it seems had mistaken his way, and stumbled into the mother's room, instead of the daughter's, echoed out with great vociferation, while a hoarse your maintop-fail limbs, port, else this here vessel cargo of rack pun table.

But whether this calculated for the Baudrons, or his fear incapable of profitingiven him, is doubted that in his endeavour cipitate retreat, he cand all the furniture and all the furniture of the prizing noise; to the tude of the landlady,

three guineas in the purchase, is now no more! Having uttered this pity-moving ejaculation, her noise subsided, abundance of sighs escaped from her overcharged bosom, and she fainted away, deprived for a time of all sensation.

The failor was so enraged at this manifest disorder in his bedsellow, that he jumped out of bed and seized Baudrons just as he had reached his own room door, and with a volley of oaths, demanded what brought him there to commit such damage, when it was his watch below, and every body else had turned in? My companion endeavoured to excuse himself by laying the blame on the weakness of his retentive faculties, which had forced him out in order to promote an evacuation, but this was so far from appealing his antagonist, that after exclaiming, 'What you dog! on other place to pump ship, but in 'my cabin?' he presented him with so many

this time was reco fit, was obliged to ferved, that fince t broke fo valuable a 1 and spilt half a guin good punch as eve tongue, there was i more of a gentleman make good the loss; mour took notice, he tleman for ought he kr ter, but could be no g him if he could, to rur half a league to wind might have bore away clapping his helm a litt

The taylor

of Hamilton Murray. 165 in a state of universal trepidation, so much had this rencounter overpowered his whole fabrick.

CHAP. XIV.

We resolve to bilk our landlady.—Take the London road, and put up for the night at Sandwich.—Baudrons commits a fecond blunder, which lavs us under the suspicion of highwaymen. -Great zeal of an irish tinker, and a recruiting officer on the occasion.— 'Are overtaken by Mrs. Coaxum. who arrests us for damages; but relieved from durance, by the friend? affiftance of fome failors.

BAUDRONS, whose thoughts were entirely engroßeil by the preceding adventure, had no some mane a lodgement between the sheets, than naturals, and no long the disappointment of principally owing to work of Satan.

Fraught with this fternation was redoubled ing himself over heat the bed-cloaths, he crise agony, 'Geud in He Belzebub, an a the le fitted gang! instead o' Mrs. Betty's twa fite hile agong has a haund upo the Deevil! Crist has merce na hear su et curst an bette the water-kelpie? Geuc

But though my companion's head was filled with a thousand ridiculous fears about spirits, &c. and thoroughly perswaded that Mrs. Coaxum was a witch, yet I saw the matter in quite another light; and not at all satisfied with the behaviour of her daughter, who had lately begun to form designs upon my watch, and also drained my pockets to the lowest ebb, I resolved to decamp forthwith.

But this was a circumstance that required some conduct in the execution, as we were both considerably in debt to our landlady, whose great skill in multiplication, while it conveyed an idea of her dexterity as a publican, gave me no room to doubt but that our arrears had already been extended to a tolerable amount.

While I was confidering the next day in what manner to go off unfulpected, a failer came in with a pair of Dutch trowfers

168 The Life and Adventures

trowfers to pawn, but was offered fo trifling a return, that he made no scruple to expatiate on their ingratitude in a language peculiar to himself; and in the course of his invectives, perceiving me, he addressed me thus, ' What 'chear brother? what chear? I do supopose as how you be about such another cruise as myself, but stand by vour top-sail hawl-yards! so long as ' you have got any dust a board, it is hail 'fellow well met; but d-me! no fooner has that taken its departure, 'and you are obliged to hawl upon a wind, as I am, than it is loufy dog, 'lubberly tarpawlin, how the devil came you and I together? fo I'd have 'you mind your eye, and clap your ' land-tacks on board; for what figni-' fies cruizing in the latitude of these b---s, where nothing is to be got but a cargo of brimstone and gun-"powder?" Having delivered himself in this manner, he went out in great anger, and damning his eyes, but he'd blow

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 169 blow them all over the town as the biggest fireships that ever spread calicoe.

This advice I looked upon as extremely wholesome in my present situation, and communicated my defign to Baudrons, who was vastly delighted at the thoughts of bilking the old witch. as he termed her, and we fixt upon that very night for our departure: for this purpose, we packed up the remainder of our clothes and linen, and watching an opportunity, made the best of our way to Sandwich, where we arrived after two hours smart walking, and put up at a public house for that night, extremely delighted at so lucky an escape by which we had saved the whole reckoning: we spent the evening with great pleasure, in company with an Irish tinker, and a small recruiting party till bed time.

Vol. I. I Next

confounded, when again foon after, a nance as if he had fe fed me thus; 'Rife for your life! fa c comin this gate fu witch Coaxum, a ma faul! gen ye beath teen.'

The tinker, who great attention to fooner faw him mo door, than, jumping he seized him by the Arrah now, good is world, will you be fo shivel as to give

- tion, and I defire the company to
- take notice, I lay claim to the benefit
- of the act of parliament for appre-
- ' hending a highwayman.'

This impudent accusation enraged me so much, that I got up with intent to vindicate the character of my companion from so villanous a charge; but was quickly pulled down again by the alarmed serjeant, who took notice, that forty pounds was a pretty parcel of money, and that he would not scruple to hang his own brother for half the sum.

By this time a female voice was heard, inquiring if two Scotchmen had not called there that morning; which circumstance confirming the tinker in his suspicions, that we were certainly robbers, he ran to the door in a transport of joy, and ushered in our landlady with these words; 'Step in, Mrs. 'Coax-my-thumb, stepin; by my shoul, 'you are after being the handsomest I 2 'young

172 The Life and Adventures

- 4 young woman, for your age, in the king-
- dom. Ah, heavens bless your shweet pret-
- ty fashe! See, there are the rogues as fast
- as a thief in a halter. Pray now, how
- much was the robbery? I hope they
- ' didn't murder you?'
 - Robbery!' fays my landlady, 'rob-
- bery enough, o'my conscience! the
- 'villains eat of my bread, drank of my
- ' drink, and had free grace and regrace
- to my daughter, who is one of the
- cleverest girls, tho' I say it, that ever
- 'man laid his leg over, and then ran
- away without paying their reckoning,
- · like a couple of mangey Scotch fcrubs
- 'as they are. But come, Mr. Parch-
- ' ment, do your duty.'

On this, a couple of bailiffs came up, and arrested me at the suit of Mrs. Mary Coaxum, householder in Deal, for an action of ten pounds sterling. Upon objecting to the justice of her demand, I was given to understand, that the damage

damage done the preceding night by my companion, and which was charged to the account, was a large China punch-bowl, value three guineas, a set of China cups and faucers, which were then upon the table by way of glasses, and two guineas she had paid to Dr. Potion to relieve her from a violent fit of hystericks she had fallen into on the occasion.

The tinker, whose expectations of pocketting the forty pounds had a little before been extremely fanguine, could not bear this privation of all his hopes with the least christian patience, but coming up to the landlady, exclaimed. 4 And so you say there's no robbery in the case, ha? Arrah, the devil burn 'your fnout for your news! Here's 'good Mr. Serjeant and I have spent the whole morning in taking the ' rogues, and now you bring it in only ' petty larceny. By J-s, all's one for that, we'll be paid for our shoe-leather, I 2

pockets, declared we and she and her b

What turn this af taken was very uncert cers were obstinate to soners, and the Serjea hand, swore we shou company till we had a spective regiments; we ly a large body of saile inn, who had been can into the river, and we way to the Downs. Bas beheld this welcome haled them by the fr

their brethren in affliction, compassionated their case, and, to use their own language, soon made a clear ship; and notwithstanding all the threats of both parties, set us at liberty, and even undertook to screen us from a pursuit, till, by the help of some carriage, we might safely get to London, by detaining our enemies upon the spot for that night.

CHAP. XV.

We take places in the Gravesend waggon.—A most alarming discovery is made by one of the passengers, which involves poor Baudrons in a fresh torrent of dismay.

THIS lucky deliverance afforded us both great pleasure, as we found ourselves at once relieved from the power of our exasperated land-lady,

176 The Life and Adventures

lady, and the claims of the recruising serieant, neither of whom bore their disappointment with either philosophic or christian patience; but on the contrary, threatened with many expressions of revenge, to profecute the failors for effecting a rescue: but their resentment and menaces of vengeance were fruitless; the midshipman of the gang. after promifing to block up the enemy from spreading an inch of fail in chace of us for the first twelve glasses. by the expiration of which time, he observed, we might get as far to the north-ward, as the latitude of Londonbridge; advised us to clap some of the flying machines on board, and crowd all our canvas for the capital.

This council appeared so falutary, that we set out directly in company with the Irish tinker, who seemed in a mighty haste till he should get to London; but not before we had testified our gratitude to our friendly deliverers,

by presenting them with half a piece, which however reduced our joint stock to fomething less than two guineas: our companion, whose defire of reaching London still increased the faster we walked, made us put on fo quick a pace, that we foon overtook a large waggon, with the driver of which we bargained for feats in his carriage, and took our places accordingly.

Baudrons and myself had already made shift to infinuate ourselves, with no fmall difficulty, among fome figure's that more resembled devils than men. and the tinker upon better confideration, was preparing to ascend also, when one of the company dreffed up like the ghost in Hamlet, and who I afterwards understood was the head of a gang of strolling players then in the waggon, and on their way to a neighbouring fair, perceiving somewhat in the countenance of this Irishman which struck his poetical fancy, after 1 5

these lines from Kin

This is the man, has of The image of a wick Lives in his eye; tha Does shew the mood breast.

The tinker, who rably corresponded to and who might with ranked among that or guished by the appel looking dogs, jail bin heard himself accused by an object so trendirectly concluded, the before him was no other and something within

guilty of the murder. Christ have mercy upon my miserable shoul—I'm

a dead man.

These exclamations of guilt, which he uttered in the greatest despair, astonished the whole company, which so frightened poor Baudrons, that not being able to comprehend what sort of beings he had got amongst, he fell upon his knees also, and put up several servent prayers to heaven to deliver him 'frae the claws of witches, and 'warloks, and lang-nibbed things, still roaring out with great agony, 'Geud heevens, dinna kill ilka yin o's, 'for the sake o' this Jonas!'

By this time the player, who had very innocently been the cause of this commotion, began to suspect that something extraordinary must be at the bottom of so mysterious an affair; accordingly he jumpt down, and seizing the tinker by the collar, demanded the particulars

180 The Life and Adventures

ticulars of the murder he had mentioned; which so confounded the poor wretch, that already self-convicted, he confessed, to the amazement of us all, that three nights before, he had robbed a farmer's house in Kent, and murdered his son and daughter for attempting to escape out of a back door; after which he had made off with the booty which was then contained in his wallet.

As we were now very near a small village, he was bound fast to the waggon, and upon entering the place, carried before a justice of the peace, where, still pursued by the hand of heaven, and his own guilty conscience, he opened such a scene of cruelty, as struck every one with terror and dismay, and at last signed his own consession.

But when the magistrate examined a little farther into the business, and found how the discovery had been brought to light, he failed not to expatiate

patiate on the wonderful ways of Providence, which from causes altogether incomprehensible to man, very often brings such complicated villary to justice, and even when the guilty person has no other witness to his bloody deeds than his own tormented conscience, and thinks himself secure from the offended laws of God and man. And indeed, the player most solemnly declared, that he could not account for the part he had acted on this occasion, otherwise than from a kind of involuntary impulse, occasioned by somewhat in the features of the criminal, which had struck him at first fight with a most unaccountable antipathy; and made him resolve to affront him at any rate, though he himfelf had no particular reason for so doing.

However this affair was attended with one good consequence, that it relieved Baudrons from all farther apprehensions from the sight of these strollers, gans or my tellow t them for fo many de

CHAP.

Wherein is related a venture that befel n the road.

THE examination took up so much we were preparing to refine the waggon, we sould from the inn two hours by this time it was borevening, my friend B terrified at the thought

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 183 fideration could prevail upon him to flir one step farther that night.

Accordingly we put up at an inn, and joined some company in the kitchen, not a little surprised to see that our fellow-passengers, the players, had taken up their quarters in the same house, and were preparing to entertain the company with the rehearsal of a new pantomime dance in Harlequin Sorcerer.

This entertainment had a wondrous effect on the spectators, and did not fail to captivate the attention of my companion, whose muscles were dilated to a very extensive length at their frantick gestures and uncommon garb, which every now and then made him cry out, "Weel, weel, dance on your ways till you'r bunsuck'n an ye like, bat for aw that, deel a body sal ever gar me tru bat you'r a wheen faries! at they sal noth!"

derable impression c found means to sing partner, and acquit during that short agreed to receive me bed also that very ni a proper direction wi

Transported at tune, I joined in t with great pleasure, skill on the violin so r nager's satisfaction, th proposal to list myself where he doubted not of me in a short tin clined his offer with m the company soon aft I retired to my reason

of Hamilton Murray. 185 contemplation of my approaching happiness.

I did not remain long in this fituation; for no fooner did I observe that a profound filence reigned through the mansion, than I made an excursion from my own apartment, and began to explore my way towards that of my fair Dulcinea. I had made fo thorough an observation, as I thought, before I went up to my room, that I imagined it next to impossible for me to be mistaken, and in this confidence I entered the place, and began to undress myself in a tumult of joy. Upon approaching the bed, that bed which was to usher me to the full fruition of my most sanguine wishes, I was amazed to hear myself accosted in the following strains, 'My dear, dear Roger, come to my longing arms, and finish the conquest of that heart, which was always yours, and is no longer mine to 6 bestow."

Before



engaged, when I in a certain part wi put me in no little the number of finge then the whole ter in an instant, and lity of a retreat. I best endeavours to virago; and succed a few minutes I red expressions of fonda murmurings of siler by several convincing demonstrated the in sions had on her culties.

In the

light of a lamp which burnt on that fide of the gallery, I quickly perceived a tall figure tripping up towards the bed, and difrobing itself of incumbrances in order to make an encroachment upon the premises. This, I doubted not, was Roger, who having overflept his hour of appointment, was willing to make an attonement for his negligence by a double exertion of abilities on the occafion. But I gave him no time to put his laudable defigns in execution; for jumping out of bed, I presented myself before his aftonished eves in my shirt: and finding him struck dumb with terror at so unexpected an apparition, I laid hold on that opportunity to effect my own retreat from a place I began to be heartily tired of. With this view I bestowed upon him a smart blow under the chin, accompanied with these words in a barbarous accent: 'Tartara 6 di phlegeton rapui tonanta diable : quick, dog, quick!' which increased his

Having finished th to my fatisfaction,] clothes, and withou them on, made the b my own apartment; } confusion, found the on the infide. and it great persuasion that Baudrons to open it: ring my voice, and was actually his friend, devil, as he had before co he with trembling ster me enter; but gave m that upon waking and in the bed, he had co diately that the devil away, and could attribi

of an old catechism he had in his pocket, whereon the name of God was frequently mentioned.

This relation diverted me greatly; but my mirth was increased, when he informed me, that he had effectually prevented any visits from Satan for that night, by stuffing up the lock-hole of the door with a piece of the aforesaid catechism, and laying a broom a-cross the chimney, which, he exultingly observed, were sufficient safeguards against all the devils in hell.



190 The Life and Adventures

CHAP. XVII.

Set out on the remainder of our journey.—Our fellow-passengers described.—Several curiosities in natural philosophy are delineated by a quack-doctor, who enforces our credulity by displaying a remarkable branch of his profession.

down stairs, I found a large company of people assembled in the stable-yard, and listening with many symptoms of amazement in their faces, to a very dismal relation which Roger, the hostler, was exhibiting about the preceding adventure. As his head and several parts of his body still retained visible marks of the fall, he found very little difficulty to gain their belief of all he said. Accordingly he with admirable dexterity, shifted the scene from the bar-maid's bed-chamber to that of

his own. He observed, the siend had first appeared to him in the shape of a black cat, afterwards in that of a man, with a long tail and cloven foot, and expatiated on his own personal bravery in manually resisting the claws of the devil, with great elecution.

This strange account did not fail to have a wonderful effect on his audience. and many stories were told by some of them, to prove that there was nothing improbable in this affair; one of them in particular informed the company, as how farmer Johnson's wife had a child carried away by fome of Belzebub's messengers, and a great log of wood was found in the cradle next morning in its flead; and, oh strange to tell! when the parson of the parish advised it to be thrown into the fire, it cried out three. different times, 'Coming, coming, coming, and then flew up the chimney; presently after which, their own child

192 The Life and Adventures

child was found in its cradle again un-

Nay, my friend Baudrons, whose whole frame underwent the trembling of an ague-fit at this account, took notice, 'At about twa toumans afore he quitted Clackminnan, he had gen his gate e cauld night, to drink a piggen o yil wi twa or three geud 'neipers, at a chainge house a corter a mile out e town, bat in gangin 'ower a kirk-yard, he saw a mickle groit thing tumlin afore him like a 'woo-pack; than it wriggl'd itsel intil an unko lang black man, and at the · last an the lang swall'd sae heegh, at he cud fairly fee the meen an the ' seeven starns, out atween its twa leo-" mans."

As for Mrs. Jenny, the bar-maid, who had learned that heroick manner of address from her frequent communication with strolling players, Roger would

would never have any thing to fay to her for the future; for whether he had really any notion of the business, or thought his disappointment owing to the devil, certain it is, he made no scruple to declare, she was no better than she should be.

Another waggon now going to feet out, we laid hold of that opportunity to continue our journey, and ascended the Diligence, in company with a Jew from Rotterdam, a Wapping landlady from Deal, a young girl who had been at the Downs to see her sweet-heart, and sive female passengers besides; for the first three miles, the conversation turned wholly upon Roger's adventure, but the arrival of a new comer put a stop to any farther discourse upon that subject.

This person, whose attire bespoke him either a divine or a doctor of physic, did not let us long remain in ig-

norance of his profession: he surveyed the company with a very inquisitive eye; and pulling out a bundle of packets from his coat pocket, 'Is there any person here, fays he, troubled with vapours? here is my anti-histerick, alterative foluble pills, a most 'infallible specifick for all disorders of * the brain and nerves; it carries off the 4 flime which obstructs the circulation in the first passages; cleans, braces, 4 and renovates the coats of the stomach. 4 and exhilerates the whole man. Then 4 again for fore eyes, this little Phial does wonders; fome bunglers will be for using surgery to the decayed opticks of their patients, but I know better, half a tea-spoonful of this sovereign preparation, removes all manner of fpecks. films, and dimnefs; gutta ' ferenas are removed by it in an in-'stant, neither can the most dreadful cataract withstand the force of its ' powerful influence, but quickly is cured, even without the operation of couching:

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 195

couching. But this is not all, this here wondrous powder contains the e very quintessence of vipers; it not only stimulates the party who swal-· lows it to facrifice to Venus, but if ' mixed with a drop of blood extracted from the veins of your sweet heart, e makes the party fall so violently in · · love with you, that confummation 4 and marriage are the immediate confequences, though taken in ever fo 'fmall a quantity; this incomparable ✓ love powder is fold, gentlemen and 'ladies, for fix-pence a packet, but worth a mountain of gold, and full of more quickening provocatives, than ever that famous whore Cleopatra 'infused into the bowl of her lover 'Marc Antony.'

What neither the hysterick-pills, eyewater, or twenty other medicines could do, this last performed with ease. Half a dozen purses were drawn in an instant, and though most of the se-K 2 males

males were not only old, but ugly, yet in a few minutes, the doctor had not a fingle packet of his love-powder remaining unfold.

Having disposed of this part of his wares to fo good advantage, he affumed much gaiety, and told us, it was not for want, but purely for the love he bore to his fellow creatures, he followed that profession for that he had it in his power to be the richest man in England. ' I have a machine,' fays he, ' which is admirably adapted for the difcovery of hidden treasures. I have no " more to do but take an observation with ' it at some particular times and seasons, and if there be any gold, precious frones, or indeed any thing of value, within a certain distance of it, I feldom fail to make a discovery of the ' fame to my own emolument.'

The Jew, who had only laughed at the former part of his harangue, now for the first time began to prick up his

ears at this intelligence, and not doubting but what he hinted at was of the
nature of the philosopher's stone, told
the quack he should be proud of his
acquaintance, and gave him a note of
his lodgings in London; and to heighten
his importance, observed, that for all
his mean appearance, he was not what
he seemed, but chose to travel that
way for fear of being robbed on the
road; so saying, he produced a purse
full of guineas as a convincing testimony of the truth of his assertions.

One of the women now asked him why he did not make use of his machine to get more money? and though he did not want it himself, yet his friends might: and besides, he might perhaps lose the instrument, before he had made his fortune. 'Why trusty, Madam,' replied he, 'the government is so jealous of my know-ledge in this branch of business, that, 'would you believe it? they have K'3 brought

brought the practice of this noble art under the denomination of felony: but to convince you I am not declaring an untruth, you yourfelf shall be witness of the wonders of its efficacy in these cases.' So faying, he jumped out of the waggon, mounting a returned horse then at the tail of it, pulled out a piftol, and prefenting it to her breaft, with a volley of oaths, and as many bitches, demanded the leathern purse he had just before feen, which having obtained, he proceeded to unload the Jew, and every one of us in our turns; and pocketting his feveral prizes, with a good morrow to ye ladies and gentlemen, rode off at a hand-gallop a-crofs the heath, to the no small confusion of the parties concerned.

He was no fooner gone, than every mouth was opened to exclaim against the barbarous villain who had served them such a scurvy trick: the powders were

were thrown away in great rage; from a very natural conclusion, that, as the author was an impostor, they must be good for nothing; and for Baudrons, he declared, "that in geud troth, he did "nae like the chield frae the beginning, for at name body wid dee sike things as draw out focks bleed to mak pooders o, but deevils imps, and sik like things."

As Baudrons and myself appeared but as common sailors, and could not be thought to have much money, the doctor passed us over for a few loose pence, and we arrived safe at London, without meeting any farther disaster; when Baudrons went to a friend's house in the Hay-market, and I towards the inn I intended to put up at, not without recollecting a Latin verse which I thought well enough: adapted to this robbery:

Sic vos non vobis, munera fertis oves;

K 4 which

CHAP.

Arrive at my inn.—
by an old fon of Sat
Exchange, whom I
rately.—Go to a j
Hounfditch, who fi
on fuspicion of its
Procure its recovery
meeting with a frie
vers the fraudulent p
tribe of men, harang
danger of trusting to aj
buys my whole fortun
for ready money.

CO foon as I had parted

Inn to lodge, being a place I had often directed letters to, on a former occasion. I was agreeably surprised at finding myfelf in so glorious and magnificent a city, and soon perceived that all my ideas had fallen vastly short in regard to its beauty and largeness.

I spent some days in visiting every thing curious to the eye of a stranger. and one morning wandered to the Royal Exchange, where I diverted myself in examining the multiplicity of quack bills that are placed up there, as a decoy to the ignorant and unhealthy. I had got very intently perufing one of them in particular, and in wonderful admiration of the art of man, who could make up a pill extracted from the very rays of the fun, for fo 1 explained these words, wrote in large golden capitals: Pillula radiis solis exsracta: when a very corpulent, elderly gentleman, perceiving me so carnestly engaged, and in a sort of K 5 filent

· it he would engag to prolong the date 'a thousand years. I e position upon the best of it is, they 'p-l-nt, and licen ' poison by retail, if t the necessary sum for which means, pulv often passes for n while a phial of cham with a few spoonful! comes a most sovere 'p-x. Do but observ the impudence of this ing to one of Docto ' would men only be w they might eniov all

*pretenders. By your ruddy comeplexion, I presume, you are from Scotland. Sir: very few of our Lon-6 doners bear fuch bloom in their countenances; which is all owing to

the malignant poison of these same . quacks.

I was very glad to find a man so familiar and communicative, and told him that I was indeed a Scotchman. was lately come from Deal, and had been but a few days in town. 'I dare to fay, you have been at fea Sir,' fays he. I told him he was right; upon which he observed, that of all the men in the world, failors were the most salacious, as being confined for months together to a faline diet, and restrained from the necessary commerce of women: 'In which case,' says he, 'they have copied the Italians to a miracle; and found means to supply that defeet by a very innocent, and harmless expedient: Did you know, Sir, one · Sandy

Sandy Macgriggor? he was a pretty 'young fellow, and I was often very happy in his company: he went down to Edinburgh some two years ago, and left me the most disconsolate man alive; for we agreed like two fworn brothers, and corresponded perfectly well in all moods and tenses. I am a dear lover of the Scotch in general, and for his fake will treat you. if • you will go along with me, with • fome choice liquor called balfam of by.' I affented to this with great pleasure, not a little glad of having met with a man who feemed so great a lover of my country, and accompanied him to a certain house in Rosemary-Lane.

While I was waiting in expectation of feeing and tasting this precious liquor he had been praising all the way thither, I was soon given to understand what fort of a companion I had got with, by his descending to particulars

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 205 culars which at once both surprized and shocked me.

On this unexpected discovery, I rose up in great confusion, and giving him to understand, that his principles were both wicked and detestable, went towards the door, with intent to avoid the fight of so abhorred a monster: but it feems my beaftly admirer was too much enflamed with the colour in my cheeks, which by this time were fufficiently reddened with anger, to let the matter rest here; for he began to handle me very roughly, using both threats and promises, to bring me to a compliance; which fo transported me with rage, that, being naturally cholerick, I pulled out my penknife, and foon disabled him from farther exploits of that kind for fome time, by desperately wounding him in the object of my displeasure.

When I had given way to the emotions of my revenge in this manner, I quitted



my mind was in no d with fuch diabolical I

In a few days I foc want of a fresh supplyet I could find nobo with that very nece this induced me to thi money upon my wat cordingly carried to shop in Hounsditch, to lend me ten guineas able.

He furveyed me ver fome time after this d thinking my appearan

'you fent here with it by another?' I replied it was my own, and repeated my defire to know what he could advance if he thought that fum too much, alledging the watch was well worth thirty. 'That may very well be,' faid the pawn-broker with a leer; 'but'till' I am better affured that this was not 'picked up upon Black-heath laft' Sunday night, I must beg leave to 'fecure both it and you also.' As he said this, he made fast the door, and bid his apprentice go out and call a constable.

I was very much frightened at this manner of proceeding; for though I knew myself innocent of that or any other crime since my being in town, yet I had heard such terrible stories of people that were frequently sworn out of their lives by a set of villains, that I began to tremble like an aspin leaf, and gave myself over for a dead man. This, the broker did not fail to attribute

cur, and that he had fruit doings aiready, were permitted to par would be no keeping

Having, as he the intimidated me for not in the least doubt certainly guity, he compassion that such I was should bring a timely end by going and, opening the doct as fast as possible, be should come, and he jumped out of the back made my escape; obse

for my appearance took me along with glad at having reco again, which a little in fome fears for.

Just as I quitted the the apprentice, who I to call the constable, the glass of a window lour. This discove greatly; but when I is circumstance, he made informed me, that it was ry for a pawnbroker to and let the thief escape convert to his own accompliance.

in such a manner that the right owner could never discover them to be their property; and as for the thief, he seldom came back again to ask questions.

I then told him the affair I had lately had with the old fon of S-d-m, and in what manner I had ferved him, at which he laughed heartily, observing that, for the small time I had been from Scotland, I was a very confiderable adventurer, and then invited me home with him to dinner; during which he took an opportunity to inquire the reafon of my coming to London. this I related my first going to sea, with the reasons that induced me to take fuch a step, and told him, that I intended with the first opportunity to go home again, and draw my fortune out of the hands of my uncle, the moment I became of age.

before you can demand and take my word for finds his first attempt will, before that time is e upon ways, and means out of the whole fum. would you believe it? greater scoundrel this d ' sun, than that same fat , mine, though I say it. ' hundred pounds for my v 'I never could get but the ono touching his cash, he i 'a miser. Besides, the ol kick off shortly, and th 'in a fine situation with fon, who has lately comme and will ca...

have in the world. Take the advice of a friend: leave all thoughts of going home for this time, and endeavour to get some body to buy it all of you for ready money. Consider, a year is a long time, and many revolutions happen, even to the overturning of whole states in the half of that period.

I was transported at this agreeable proposal, as I began to fancy that there was great probability in what he said, but let him know, it would be somewhat difficult to find any person who knew my affairs well enough to incline them to make a bargain of that kind.

Very true, indeed, Sir,' replied my friend, 'your observation is extremely 'just, I assure you, and am pleased to 'see a young man of so much penetration. Why truly, as you say, there is 'no



broken reed as to ' pendance on that part ' do you think of me fo ' would willingly throw of pounds, only to hav to be revenged on the ' some former indigni 'judge myself a toles 'him, even at his own have also some busine at this time, besides a ' ledge of your situation ' all of you directly, and we shall agree upon i think well of the follo for I am a man of for

' love dispatch.-Let

a necessity for that sum to be insured ' for one whole year, to secure the pur-'chaser, in case you should die under 'age. In the fecond place, you are 'to give writings under your hand, 'thereby obliging yourself to make 'good, when you shall arrive at years of maturity, what you engaged for 'while a minor: and in the last place, 'you are to make fuch a reasonable ' discount for ready money, as the slip-' pery fitution of the case requires; for 'you must understand, that any obligation 'you can give while under age is not 'valid by law, but yet I will trust to your own generosity in that article.—IDo you take me?'——I told him, very well. Why then,' continued he, 'what would you be wil-' ling to give by way of discount, for ' ready money?'

I told him, I was by no means acquainted with fuch matters; but if he pleased

pleased to make a proposal, it was in my choice, whether to accept it or not. Upon which this honest, upright, and conscientious friend, with great composure, asked me what I thought of two thousand pounds, down upon the nail, clear of all deductions? for he would not exceed that sum by a single farthing.

I thought it a disagreeable circumstance to lose one thousand pounds
out of three, for only the anticipation
of a twelve-month, and told him as
much: but then he found means to
awaken my suspicion so much about the
uncertainty of my uncle's affairs, by observing, that a bird in hand was worth
two in the bush, and that a man was
never sure of any thing, let the prospect
be ever so promising, till he is fairly in
possession; illustrating his affertions by
quoting numberless instances of the like
nature, which, by the villainy of guardians.

dians, chalked out work daily in the courts of chancery, while the poor deluded clients were starving for bread: that his examples, together with the thought of being put in instant possession of so much gold, and the strong desire I had to become independent, overcame my objections, and I yielded to the specious delusions of this blood-sucker, and in a few days had the whole business transacted to our mutual satisfaction.

But I was very much aftonished, when I afterwards found, as shall be shewn in its place, that this had been a concerted thing betwixt him and my uncle, who, finding he could not get rid of me any other way, without endangering his reputation, was resolved to sleece me as much as possible, before I should have it in my power to demand my fortune in course of law; well knowing my prodigal disposition, and that when once my money was gone, I should neither Vol. I. have

full two thousand pour give myself no trouble ter, as I found myself lis of a kingdom, whethat was inviting to the sin the greatest variety.



CHAP. XIX.

commence a smart sellow. — Take chambers in the temple: — Buy a honse of great parentage, for which I pay florty guineas.—Go to Epsom races, and win a round sum of muney.—Disnoel with a young laily at a balli—Itose my watch.—Am taken in by a sharper, and sleeced of every penny.—My sine horse turns out a most egregious bite; — I recover my watch by a strange accident.

DEING now in possession of so large a sum of money, I resolved to take a full swing of pleasure, before I should attach myself to the least business: thinking the experience I should resp thereby, to be more than a sufficient recompence for any disbursements. I might be at on the occasion.

With

nundred, I thought it matter to make my place as London. I is felf with store of ver linen, bought a goldilver-hikted sword, a of a new acquaintance took a set of elegant Temple. It was not be got upon a good foot young stashy blades in hood, every one of wl peculiar attachment to I began to enjoy the I town with a high reliss

I had not been long ing fituation before Epfe

felf a horse, which I fancied would add greatly to my appearance, rather than to be feen on a common hack. I communicated my defign to the mafter of a tavern where I used frequently to spend the evening, and defired him to recommend me to fome one who could fupply me with a handsome gelding. Bless me, Sir,' says my obliging landlord, this is the luckiest thing in nature! you could not have applied to 4 a fitter person in the world than to me on fuch an occasion. There is Jack Newbury, the most famousest fellow for horse-flesh in England, just now in town. I'm perfectly well acquainted with him, and am fure he can fit you to admiration; but then you must come up to his price, for he always deals upon honour.'

I told him, that I would not scruple a good price, on condition I was used well, and then gave him a note of my lodgings. In consequence of this, I was L 3 waited.

waited upon the very next morning by the Jockey himfelf, who faid, if I pleased to step down to the repository in ______, I might have an opportunity to see some of the choicest cattle in the kingdom, and could be furnished from ten pounds to sive hundred.

The first horse he brought out was a very fine one to all appearance, which he observed had won the subscriptionplate at Newmarket three years before, and had been lase in the possession of whe earl of Windhelfea. But mount him, Master, fays he, mount him; you'll find him as gentle as a tamb, and yet so full of spirit, that he'll outftrip the fleetest hounds, and less & five-barred gate without hefitmion. ' I was offered fifty guineas for him laft ' fummer from Heathshot the highwayman; but you know, Sir, it is a very wrong thing to diffres the public by * mounting a refolute sellow on a horis, 6 that, modeltly speaking, might english • him

him to distance the most strenuous

opursuit. No, no, I could never answer

that to my conscience! and you know,

Sir, that conscience and honour are

e very precious things, especially among

us men of principle.

After this, I was entertained with the fight of half a fcore more of his hories, every one of which, upon production, did not fail to be the very best bred in England. But the article of the high-wayman had tickled my fancy exceedingly. I thought that certainly a robber must be a good judge of horses, as his whole safety must in a manner depend upon his skill in that particular, and dwelt upon this one with the greatest attention. This the Jockey no sooner perceived, than he proceeded thus:

^{&#}x27;I see, Sir, you are a good judge,
by your surveying Baldsace so earnestly: he has certainly a very sine appearance, and might grace a General
L 4

in a triumph: Had poor unfortunate

· Heathshot only come up to the price of him, and concealed his intentions as to his use, (for you must underfland, Sir, that the fame principle that kept me from felling him the horfe, kept me also from betraying him to 'justice, when I found out his way of life; for in these cases my sense of ' honour, Sir, is extremely nice) I fay, had he conducted matters more prudently, he would hardly have fuffered two loufy farmers, mounted on coachhorses, to have taken him so easily. • and might, to this day, have escaped a ' scragging; but it wasn't his fate to have ' him, and I am glad of it. No. no. Arabia was never pillaged to furnish highwaymen with horses; God forbid! -' I believe I can trace his pedigree to the

tenth generation. — Let me see—
Baldface the son of lord D——s's famous bay-horse Remus, out of a mare
belonging to his grace the duke of
Hamilton, who won the give and take

• plate

* plate some years ago at York races;

his grand-dam, Mr. Meredith's Filly;
his great grand-dam, Tantwivy; his
great, great grand-dam, the marquis
for Rockingham's Sweepstakes; his
great, great, great grand dam, Miss
Biddy Wriggle, full fister to the noted
horse Driver, got by the earl of Godolphin's famous mountaineer Cullum
Arabian—So that you see, Master,
he is come of some of the best families
in Europe.'

This long detail of father, mother, and great grandmothers appeared so satisfactory to me, that, with some emotion, I demanded his price; for that this individual horse, or none, was for my money.

"Why, Sir,' fays the Jockey, 'I would by no means have you to buy a pig in a poke: to be fure, you could not appear at Epsom better mounted, was you to search all England—but then you may scruple his price; and L 5 fuch

* fuch bargains are not to be found * every day. I have already observed * to you, that I was offered fifty guineas * fome months ago for him; but as I * told you before, my conscience would * not suffer me to part with him to a * highwayman; howsomdever, as you * are a gentleman, I will fell him to * you for forty pieces, and under that * fum he shall not depart these stables * till I carry him down into the country.

I thought this a deal of money for a horse, and offered him thirty, refolving, however, to have him at any rate, rather than delay visiting the races the very next day; but he took this offer as a very high affront, and after observing, 'I see, Sir, he is not for 'your purse,' stalked away in great dudgeon. This method of procedure convinced me beyond a doubt, that it was certainly a good purchase; I therefore called after him, and advanced directly

really to five more; but still he continued instexible, bid me survey his enchanting forehead, his exquisite limbs, and beautiful mould; and, holding up his hands in a fort of admiration, pronounced, 'Good God, what a pity it is that so pretty a gentleman should fland in his own light, and let slip this only opportunity he ever can or will have to sit himself with a horse that would do honour to his graceful appearance!

This flattering observation wrought so powerfully on my vanity, that, without farther altercation, I agreed to give him his price, which I accordingly paid down upon the nail, and that very evening took the tour of Hampstead and Highgate upon my new purchase, and could not help thinking all the way as I rode, that every body was charmed with my easy carriage and horsemanship.

Having completed this affair so much to my satisfaction, I dressed myself next morning very elegantly, and took the road to Epsom, not a little proud of being mounted on the back of so gallant a prancer. At my arrival on the course I was wonderfully delighted at surveying the crowds of people that were there already, and at the vast number that came driving in every minute.

While I was gazing very attentively upon these things, which appeared quite new to me, a gentleman, dressed in silver and green, came up, and patting me very familiarly on the shoulder, eried, 'Twenty to sive on that bay- mare, my lord: she beats Sweepstakes, all hollow, for a cool hundred.' Tho' I did not understand one word of this curious salute, yet I was very glad to be taken for a lord; and assuming a look of importance, replied, 'I don't think she will.' On this he pulled out a large

large number of bank-notes, and effered to lay twenty to five on the fide of his favourite; when I told him, I waited for a special party, and had no leisure to attend the issue: but, however, I would lay him ten guineas upon equal terms, and he would find me on the course at his convenience.

So faying, I rode off in great state, and began to fancy I must certainly have something very striking about me, to be taken for a nobleman at first sight. Zounds, thought I, there is nothing like cutting a figure! I shall certainly make my fortune very speedily, by some lady of quality falling in love with me.

In order, therefore, to keep up the gentleman's good opinion of me, I took occasion to mix among some very genteel company, where there were very great bets going forward; and tho' at first I behaved but awkwardly, yet by the help of a little resolution, which I summoned

moned on the occasion, I quickly acted my part to admiration; and joining in among the gamesters, soon found myfelf one hundred and fifty pounds richer than I was in the morning, and all this by blind chance; for I knew not one jot about the matter, but accepted of every bet that was laid me.

Transported at this lucky beginning, I brightened up exceedingly, and that very night infinuated myfelf fo far into the good graces of an agreeable lady I had feen upon the course, that I had the happiness to dance at the ball with her, and the pleasure to find that I conducted myfelf in fuch a manner as to gain the approbation of my fair partner. Next morning I took the liberty to wait upon her to her lodgings. when the complained grievously of the gentleman's rudeness who had brought her from London, who, the faid, was so addicted to the bottle, that he made no scruple to be guilty of the most fhock-

of Hamilton Murray. 231

shocking indecencies, rather than forfake so darling a companion; and took notice, that he was so little recovered from his last night's debauch, that she was even under the shocking apprehension of being deprived of the diversions of the day, for want of a male attendant. I thought this a very proper opportunity to offer her my service to wair upon her in the quality of a very humble servant; which, after some seeming hesitation, she consented to, and I went out full of joy to bespeak a four-wheeled phaeton, the better to cut a sigure upon the course.

When we arrived there, the gentleman in the filver and green came up, and very complaisantly told me, I had won the wager; at the same time putting a twenty pound bank-note intomy hand, for which I gave him change; while he took notice, that he was never more deceived in his life than to find Sweepstakes taken in so queerly, and that

that the d-n'd Jockeys hadn't acted upon principles of honour.

This fresh acquisition encouraged me fo much, that I began to fancy a man might foon make an ample fortune, if he had the least insight into the nature of so important a branch of business. which I saw was studied by most of the Nobility and the principal people of the That I therefore might not be wanting to myself at a time when my stars seemed more than ordinary propitious. I fell to work with double vigour, but had foon reason to repent severely of my folly; for in a very short time I had lost not only all my winnings, but even the forty guineas I had brought out from London in my pocket. This fatal loss chagrined me strangely; I curst my stupidity a thoufand times, that had prevented me from going off, when I had won so largely; and I was obliged to defift from farther business, merely for want of cash.

of Hamilton Murray. 233

All this time my fair companion was engaged deeply in play; but I was not a little confounded, when, upon her losing a considerable sum, she referred her antagonist to me, who, she observed, always disbursed the money on those occasions. Alarmed at this infinuation, I turned short upon her, and demanded the meaning of that expression; when her creditor cried out, 'Psha, psha, • Sir! it an't at all like a gentleman to • affront your lady for fuch a trifle. It is very mean of you. - Prythee difburse the cole with a good grace; it * is no more than twenty guineas." "My lady! Sir,' faid I, 'what do you mean by that? fhe is no lady of mine, and if you think otherwise, you will find yourself mistaken. - Come, Madam. I find how it is: I shall, therefore, do myfelf the pleasure to convey you fafe back to your drunken e paramour; for at present, I am neither in the mind nor condition to continue this farce any longer.' So faying,

ing, I gave the horses a lash and was making off the premises, when the cried out. 'Where are you driving to. vou Scotch bl-d of a b-ch? What, I suppose you are some pitiful fcoundrel of an attorney's clerk, who has hired a horse by the day, in order to impose upon the public under the character of a man of fortune: and uttering a volley of epithets, no way adapted to her genteel appearance, jumped down in great anger, and committed herself to the care of my gentleman in green, who, by the way, had won almost every farthing of my money.

I now drove back in great agony, to think I had loft more in one day by my folly, than would have maintained me like a gentleman for a twelve-month; and called up my landlord with intent to dispose of my watch, but I soon found that this moveable had sed my pocket without my privity, and I began

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 235 gan to think, not without the help of my late companion.

I had now no better expedient left me, I shought, shan to raife some money by parting with my horfe, and accondingly I applied myfelf to my landlord for that pumpale; but mine hold very fagaciously told me, that it was dangerous to meddle with those matters aid a man should be better informed. Who was Who, and then stroking she horse, defined to know what I might have given for him. " Why, Sir," faid L . he cost me forty guinces volterday, and I had him a good bargain; but as I have occasion for some cash at pre-6 fost, I should be willing to bate a small smatter of that fem. 4 I believe you " would, truly, Sir,' quoth this diferening publican, 4 and not without reason s neither: but at present you may think s woorfelf well off with a quarter of the 6 money for the horse is broken-winded. 4 and

y,*

* and will foon be fit only to be put in * a fand-cart.'

This was a thunder-stroke to me indeed. I related the whole circumstance of my buying him, with the history of his nativity, actions, and descent, and vowed revenge most bitterly against the Jockey who had so cheated me. 'Why, look ye, Sir,' said he, 'I don't see how you can recover any damage, or even sue him for a fraud, as he'll certainly insist that you have strain'd him at the races, and so elude your expostulations that way.'

Ruefully convinced of the reasonableness of this observation, all thought of attempting to right myself by law subsided; and my mind was wholly employed in contriving in what manner I should defray the expences I had ran into: after much debate with myself; I was.

of Hamilton Murray. 237

I was at last constrained to pledge a brilliant, worth ten guineas, with my landlord, till I should redeem the same, by a return of three pounds, which with great difficulty he was prevailed upon to lend me, after having consulted half a score people on the occasion.

Just as I was going to set out with a heavy heart, I observed a vast mob coming up the town, and was not a little surprised to see the fine gentleman in green, who had so complaisantly honoured me with the title of lordship, led away by a great concourse of people before a Justice of the peace, being charged with forging a large number of bank-notes, which he had put off during the races, in return for good gold. Being very inquisitive to see the iffue of this strange discovery, I joined in with the cavalcade, and followed him to the Magistrate's; when, lo! upon fearching him, the first thing that

Life and Adventures &cc.

vidual watch, which I chalupon the inftant; and upon appealing to my landlord, who gave his
testimony that it was the same he had
feen in my hand the night before, I recovered this utensil a second time, and
found myself some pounds lighter in
my spirits since this unexpected acquisition.

END of VOL. I.



THE

I F E

AND

REAL ADVENTURES

O F

Iamilton Murray.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

VOL. II.

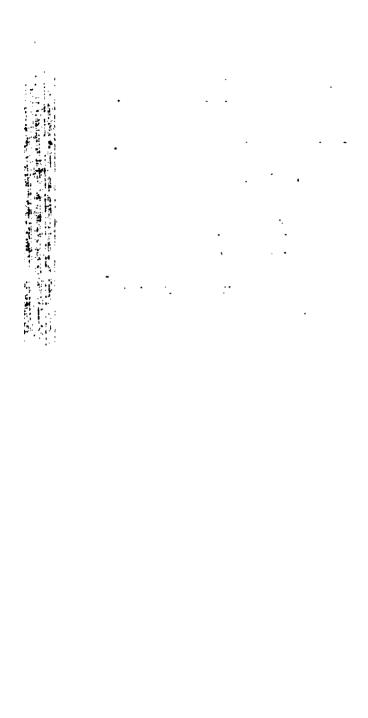


LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR;

And Sold by J. BURD, Printer, in New-Street,
Shoe-Lane.

MDCCLIX.



THE

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

Am accosted by an old acquaintance, with whom I return to London.—He carries me to a coffee-house, where I am entertained with the discussion of a Scripture text.—Etymology and use of the word Damnation. — A piece of humour is practifed upon an old batchelor, which produces much diversion.

Page 1

Vol. II. A 2 CHAP.

The CONTENTS.

CHAP. II.

Refolve to visit Tunbridge.—Set out in the stage-coach, and have an opportunity to observe the singular humour of one of the passengers. — Are attacked on the road by a couple of highwaymen, where a specimen of sea-courage is exhibited worthy the imitation of all brothers of the blade.

CHAP. III.

Wherein the Characters of my fellowtravellers are farther displayed. 49

CHAP. IV.

Visit the wells.—Some account of that place, and the company that frequent it.—Am introduced to several of the lawyer's acquaintance.—Visit the walks, the shops, and coffee-houses.

The CONTENTS.

houses. — Engage at billiards, and come off a winner. — Take lodgings on mount Sinai.—Character of monfieur Rhubarbe our landlord, and that of his wife.

CHAP. V.

An odd occurrence happens at my lodgings, which involves my land-lord in a most ridiculous situation.—In consequence of a very disastrous accident, I leave the Wells in disagrace, and return to London.

72

CHAP. VI.

I am visited by the stock-broker, who finds great fault with my method of life. — Harangues me on the advantages resulting from a strenuous application to business, and advises me to commence trader. — I approve of his proposal, and sell of my moveables,

I go to dine with Am entertained with the humou ternity. — Make on the change. — branch of infin upon by a new c me with his ealiteness.

CHA

According to app my customer at Am received in manner. — A fri who discounts m

The CONTENTS,

pounds in my debt.—Puts me off with trifling evalions, till I experience a new system of roguery.—My uncle turns out a most consummate villain.

CHAP. IX.

I prevent a young woman from hiscide. — Carry her home to my lodgings, and make an interesting discovery.

CHAP. X.

The Story of Miss Surry Patterson. 143

CHAP. XI.

I make Sukey an honest woman by marriage. — Go after a place of two hundred a year, which proves a bite upon the public. — Am horribly chagrined, but relieved by a second advertisement.

The CONTENTS.

vertisement. — Overhear a discourse in a coffee-house, and am prevented from being taken in by a fresh discovery. 188

CHAP. XII.

Lay aside all thoughts of place-hunting. — Resolve to turn publican, and apply to a register-office. — Am harangued by the master, who inveighs bitterly against the villainy of brewers and distillers. — Professe great friendship, and introduces me to a house in Southwark. — He practises a remarkable instance of his calling, but is prevented from reaping the fruits of his attachment by a queer discovery. — Sukey is seized with a violent sever, and dies the third day.

The CONTENTS

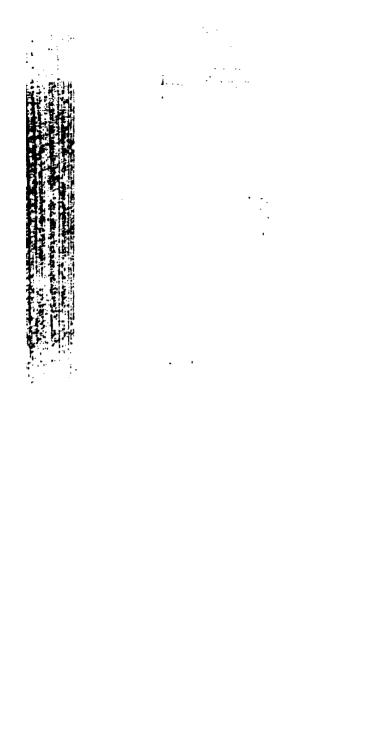
CHAP. XIII.

In order to diffipate my melancholy, I go to Maidenhead races. — Engage in play, and carry off an hundred and seventy pounds. — Find means to over-reach a sharper for two hundred guineas.

232



THE





THE

LIFE and ADVENTURES

O F

HAMILTON MURRAY.

CHAP. I.

Am accosted by an old acquaintance, with whom I return to London.—He carries me to a coffee-house, where I am entertained with the discussion of a Scripture text.—Etymology and use of the word Damnation.—A piece of humour is practised upon an old batchelor, which produces much diversion.

HILE I was hugging my-We fielf on my good fortune at so unexpectedly recovering my watch, a young fellow, who had fol-Vol. II. B lowed



Surprised to find r. accosted by a strang had not the least k to think him anothe tended to sound the ca second time; but ceived in that partic claimed, 'Zounds, 'me then? and have got your old acquary vage, who assisted y ture of Tickletext au

This observation of once; I recollected his and expressed my satisfin a place where I ha

wholefale chemist in Piccadilly; and that Sukey Patterson had been brought to bed of a fine boy, foon after my departure, and had been fo ill used by the schoolmaster on that account, that she had disappeared all at once, and it was feared that she had laid violent hands on herfelf, to get rid of his barbarous treatment.

This information diffressed me greatly. I could not look back on the happy minutes I had passed with that dear girl, and think of her unhappy fate, without shedding tears. I felt a return of all my former tenderness for her, and the impossibility to make her any recompence for her fufferings, increased my anguish ten thousand fold. I vowed bitter revenge on the inhuman villain, who, by his barbarity, had drove my adorable girl to this wretched choice; and was so dispirited at the mournful recollection of what the innocent babe must have suffered by her loss, that I was

was scarce able to support myself under it: and Dick was even fain to make use of all his rhetorick to prevent me from committing fome extravagancy on myfelf. He alledged, that very poffibly the might be still alive, notwithstanding the general belief of the neighbourhood to the contrary, fince it was only founded on furmife, and advised me to advertise her by her own name, with a detail of particulars, in all the newspapers. This hint produced fo good an effect on my mind, that I suffered myself to be comforted; and Dick promised to dispel all remains of gloom and low spirits on this occasion, by carrying me to a fort of club, of which he was a member, as foon as we reached town, where the humours of the company would prove a never-failing antidote for any future attack of the spleen.

Glad of this opportunity to chase away those melancholy reslections which still hung upon my mind, I accompanied nied him with great pleasure to a coffeehouse in Fleet-street; and, upon entering the room above stairs, observed a large group of figures furrounding a table, invested by so impenetrable a cloud of smoke, as put me in mind of the infernal deities at a consultation. The chairman, who fat in great state at the upper end, perceiving a new face, took vast umbrage, that my friend should presume to intrude a stranger upon the company, without previously consulting the board; but Dick soon found means to pacify him in that article, by observing, that I was but just come to town, and having lately met with great losses, he had taken the liberty to introduce me into the club. with a view of having my chagrin difpelled by their fagacious observations.

This had the defired effect: the chairman quickly recalled his good humour, and that I might have an early specimen of his understanding, took up a news-

paper and defired the attention of the company to the following paragraph:

Last monday night, a master taylor

of the parish of St. Martin in the fields,

having fome disputes with his wife,

of a very interesting nature, fnatched

up a razor, and difmembered his or-

gans of virility, which he threw into

the fire with great fury, accompany-

ing the action with these words; "If

"thy limb offend thee, cut it off, and

"throw it from thee;" to the infinite

grief and despair of his afflicted rib.

who fainted away three different times

on this melancholy occasion.

When he had read this sentence. which he did with great energy, he put on a very big look, and affured the company, that the taylor in question was certainly damned to all eternity for the commission of this heinous crime.

Upon

Upon which a fat grocer, on the other fide of the table, took notice. that he could fee no reason why any man should be damn'd for fulfilling the Scripture in a literal sense. damn'd! Sir,' fays the chairman, ⁶ you'll give me leave to differ from vour opinion in that point. Yes, yes, he's damn'd enough I warrant you by this time, take my word for it. Do but observe what is written in the Old Testament; "He that is wounded "in the stones, or hath his private " members cut off, cannot enter into " the kingdom of God." Now we must either entertain a doubt as to the veracity of these words, or rest assured, that the foul of the unfortunate tayfor is in a state of perdition; yea, 'even tho' his miserable body should out-live this accident for many years.

And so you think a body can exist without a soul?' cried a disciple of St. Cosmus, starting up with great agible 4 lity;

lity; 'For my part, do ye fee, I always was of opinion, that the foul of the man was the active principle, without which there could neither be gefture, feeling, or muscular motion; and that without this influencing particle, the object under consideration was no more—let me see—no more actually now—as a man may say—than abfolutely a body without a foul.'

'Undoubtedly, Sir,' quoth the chairman, 'it may very probably be so. Un'natural crimes beget unnatural punish'ments. Now that this is a most un'natural crime, I will infer from the
'action itself. For, pray, what can be
'more unnatural than for a man to
'strike at the very root of nature?'
'Does he not, by so doing, deprive
'himself of nature's best gift? For in
'taking away those parts that are na'tural, and destined for the propaga'tion of human nature in general, does
'it not follow, that what remains of
'him

'him is quite unnatural, and conse'quently unsit to remain in a state of
'nature for any continuance? Besides,
'we have had instances before now of
'a person rising from the grave, and
'pronouncing his own damnation: now,
'are we to suppose, that the soul of
'that man was in any other place than
'hell? and is there not a gulph fixt?
'We may as well deny the law and the
'prophets!'

'Fie upon you, Sir, fie upon you,' fays a diffenting preacher of Moorfields, 'this is downright blasphemy! I am 'ashamed to see a man of your years 'with so little christian charity. Remember what is written on this occasion: "Judge not, lest ye be judged." Besides, I will maintain, that 'the taylor could not take a more effectual method in nature than this, to ascend the mansion of the blessed: for in disengaging his body of those 'parts which are most prone to an B 5 'earthly

earthly carnality, he difencumbers himfelf of a most heavy load of pollution,
and thereby wingeth his soul to heaven
with the greater facility. For is it not
expressly written, that "ye must be
cunuchs for the kingdom of heaven?"
Now, if there is a necessity for a man
to become an eunuch, as the nature
of these words imply, before he can
enter into glory, how, pray, shall
it come to pass, that the same man
must be damn'd for dismembering

6 himfelf?

The chairman, who had plumed himfelf greatly on his former delivery, and little thought of so shocking a rebuff, was highly incensed at this unexpected opposition, and reddening with anger, exclaimed in a high voice, 'You are a' shallow-headed dotard, and it is easy to see you have no more brains than a parrot. Why, you don't compreshend the true meaning of the words: they plainly infer, do ye see, that your

fat '

of HAMILTON MURRAY.

11

'fat arse must mortify all desires of the slesh, even till you are as dead to all sensation as a rotten herring, before you can have any pretensions to pass into rest. For, don't the thing plainly shew, that this is the deadly sin which St. Paul speaks of, when he says, there is a sin unto death? And, for why is it the deadly sin? verily, because it is a downright striking at the image of God, by disappointing all farther operations of the spirit, when a man is moved, as it were, to propagate his likeness, and raise up seed unto salvation.'

He now thought, he had put a most effectual stop to any farther disputes on this subject; but he was mistaken: a long lank fellow, a son of the muses, in a rusty black coat, and an enormous tie-wig of a sandy complexion, was resolved the matter should not stop here, till he had put in for his share of the honour also. Accordingly he stood up, and

and embracing the punch-bowl with more than magnetic attraction, began thus: " That this is not the deadly fin vou mention, Mr. chairman, I will convince you prefently; as I will up-. hold, that the fin of Onan is the crime for which there can be no remission. ' Now here the case differs widely; the ' poor taylor was led into the commiffion of that action, which bereft him of his manhood, from a supposition that he did his duty, and by miftaking the text in a literal fenfe; whereas the fin of Onan is an actual flying in the face of heaven against all reason and conviction, and he that s is guilty of this fin, may justly be accused of the most horrid of murders. inasmuch as he extends his crime to posterity, and may be said to dispeople a world at every trespass; so that you plainly perceive that this is what is hinted at by the aforesaid apostle, when he makes mention of a deadly fin; and furely, if opposing

of HAMILTON MURRAY.

13

'the operations of heaven in the pro'duction of its creatures, wilfully, and
'with one's eyes open, is not the most
'heinous of all crimes, I am of opinion
'it would puzzle the whole body of
'the church, to find out a circum'stance of a blacker die.'

The dispute being now at this crisis, and neither of the parties expressing the least desire to recede from their established opinion, the chairman commanded silence, and referred the matter to the determination of a half-pay officer, who was engaged in a very earnest discourse with a tallow-chandler, about the conduct of General——, and the state of our affairs in America. The matter being thus agreed on, the soldier put on a very martial frown, and delivered himself to this purpose:

'You talk of damnation, Gentle-'men, but may I be d——n'd to hell 'if I believe there is any fuch thing as 'damna-

- damnation, in reality: it is all a
- ' priest's cooked-up story, the better to
- ' procure their tithes and fucking pigs,
- or elfe a delufion of the devil.

Here he was interrupted by one of the members, who begged to know what use he could make of the devil and hell, fince he exploded the article of damnation.

'O dear Sir! of what use?' replied the soldier, 'why, a mighty ingenious use, I do assure you, Sir. They are all three of infinite service in discourse, and serve to fill up vacancies in it, that would otherwise be disagreedable: besides, they add weight to an argument, and carry conviction in their sound. As for example now, how paultry would it appear in a gentleman and a man of honour barely to say, Sir, I shall take care to obey your commands in that respect; or, Sir, I shall not fail to resent this

of Hamilton Murray.

15

affront; when he can express himself in this emphatical manner: May I be d-n'd, Sir, if I do not acquit myself in this affair to your satisfaction, I will by G-d! or, D-nat-n feize me, if I don't blow you to atoms for this indignity done to my honour. Now, Gentlemen, do but observe the inexpressible propriety of the words in e question. Here, damnation comes in with a grace, adds energy to the diction, and affures your antagonist in a superlative manner, that you will be as good as your word. And what is the consequence, do you think? Why, he is immediately aghast at your resolution, sets you down in his mind as a hero of the first class, and by egetting out of the way in all hafte, faves you the trouble of running him 'through the body.

^{&#}x27;As for my part, do you see, I can have no idea of a man being more exquisitely damn'd, than I myself was fome

fome months ago. You must underfland, Gentlemen, that I had an affair of the utmost consequence with a voung lady of great beauty, birth, and fortune, which, that we might transact to the best advantage, we retired to a private apartment, and were, do we mind me, Gentlemen, in the midft of a very interesting correspondence, when, d-n my heart, who do you ' think rushed in to spoil the sport but a ' fet of rascally tipstaves, who, it seems, ' had traced my footsteps thither; and 'notwithstanding all the prayers and tears of the poor young lady, who was ready to break her heart at this 'unlucky intrusion, carried me off to the Marshalsea for an action of two 'hundred pounds, at the suit of a mil-' liner in Bond street. Don't you think this was damnation in its true and. 'literal sense, to be interrupted at a time when I was bringing matters to bear so effectually, as could not fail to fecure me the good graces of the 6 lady

of Hamilton Murray.

17

'lady ever after? Surely it was, and 'd—n me, if you diffent from me in opinion, I should be glad to know wherein I am mistaken.'

When he had expressed himself in this manner, he fat down in high plumage, and left the three disputants so entirely confounded at the effects of his happy eloquence, that they remained in a state of stupid insensibility; 'till' Mr. Baal, the Moorfield's preacher. found means to arouse their attention a second time, by observing, that damnation was neither more nor less than a total privation of the beatifick vision, without which there could be no happiness; and took notice, that he was furprifed to hear any man, far less a foldier, indulge himself in language that was not only wicked, but blafphemous.

'A very pretty observation this, d—n 'me,' cried the soldier, 'and if you 'copy

copy Tillotfon as well, no wonder if you produce a good fermon. Why, ' ar'n't those my own words over again. ' clothed in another garb, and be d-n'd to you? For, wasn't I deprived of the beautiful vision of my mistress, fince you must vision her, by the individual arrival of thefe fame rafcally. bums? And as for the happiness you talk of, by G-d, I can fee no hap-' piness a poor fellow had to expect in a spunging-house, with no more than three half-crowns in his pocket. So that, Mr. Baal, you may prate of your ftories of roafting fouls upon gridirons to fome body else, for they won't take with me, d-n me.

'Nor with me neither, by the lord 'Harry,' cried the poet, dancing about the room in a transport of joy; 'nor with me neither. O heavens! what comfort it is for a man to be blessed with a large stock of brains, seasoned by reslection, and peppered with sa'gaci-

'gacity! What, because the taylor 'made free with his own, and you, Mr. 'foldier, made free with the milliner's 'property, and were both punished for 'your pains, do you pronounce these things, damnation? A very pretty sto-'ry, indeed! when your poor coun-'try is labouring under the tyranny of 'an oppressive and a bloody war, to center all your calculations, your reckonings, and your observations within the 'narrow limits of felf. No, no, my friends, damnation is a much more 'serious affair than you are yet aware of: it is no less than a national concern, I do affure you, Gentlemen, and 'you ought to fall down and worship 'my footsteps as the eastern magi did the star of nativity, who thus, by the power of his understanding alone, has been enabled to make fo important a 'discovery.'

This unfathomable harangue set the ears of the whole company upon the stretch;

ftretch; which the poet observing, with infinite fagacity went on thus:

' You must know,' my friends, 'that from this night's conference I have ' imbibed a thought to attract the at-· tention of all England: and this I ' will do most effectually, by publishing 'a poem in blank verse, which I will ' forthwith fet upon the flocks, intituled, ' Damnation upon the point of a broom-' flick. This glorious piece shall be de-'dicated to his grace the d- of 'N-, and wherein I will make it ' plainly appear, that so long as Great-Britain shall permit the French, in ' time of war, to carry on their com-' merce in neutral bottoms, our political fpeculations in the cabinet are to none 'effect: as in the mean time our trade 'will be ruined by their privateers, ' without an opportunity to make re-'prifals; by which means the nation will be unable to grant the necessary , supplies for carrying on the war with vigour,

of Hamilton Murray. 21

derfold by the enemy at foreign markets, and this brave people, by degrees, dwindle into the enervated effeminacy of the Italians. So that you fee, Gentlemen, you are all out in your conjectures upon this subject: for if the sure means of ruining a commonwealth cannot properly be called the damnation of that republick, I profess I am at a loss how to come up to the true meaning of the word.

'But why do you grace your per'formance with the subsequent phrase
'of a broom-stick?' said Mr. chairman; who began to think the glory of
the whole night would be snatched out
of his hands at last; 'this is a circum'stance I am of opinion you will find
'some difficulty to account for, and is
'a thing I can by no means com'prehend.'

No, I believe not, indeed,' replied the poet, with a fneer of inexpressible felf-conceit; 'I believe not, truly! It would be more than Herculean labour to instill into such brains, as yours, comprehension, or invention either: but to a man of my exalted conceptions, nothing that can be grasped by thought, or taken in by the elevations of fancy, can be impossible.

Know then, that I have taken this glorious allusion from a voyage I lately made to Deptford, where I saw a number of brooms stuck up at the mast-heads of several vessels, which it seems denoted their going to be sold. Now, Gentlemen, can there be a greater sign, do ye think, that the trade of this kingdom is in a state of damnation, than to see a whole sleet of our merchantmen put up to sale? Don't it visibly infer, that there is no good to be done by the way of commerce, and make true the ends of my excellent

- elent poem to a tittle? Arma virum-
- e que cano shall be the motto; and that
- our ministers may improve the hint,
- and ftrike home in the infancy of these
- disorders, I will enforce my admoni-
- ⁶ tions by the trite quotation of Ruddi-
- man, Fronte capillata, post est occasio
- calva.

This remarkable instance of the poet's erudition and capacity, made a very sensible impression on most of the audience, and a buz of applause was immediately echoed round the board; which had so great an effect upon his spirits, already in a violent exaltation, that he skipped about the room like a madman, and applied a bottle of wine to his mouth which such energy that he soon drained it to the bottom, and then fell down on his chair.

An universal filence now ensued, during which there was a more than ordinary suction of their tobacco pipes,

till the man of war, unwilling to rest long without bringing his own importance upon the tapis, broke out again in this manner:

'You said I was a soldier, Mr. Parfon, and you faid right. I am a piece of a soldier, by G-d; but should be ashamed to be named of a day with fome of your great ones, who reflect a dishonour on the epithet. Who now s can look back, with any degree of patience, on that scandalous affair in America? For my part, I say nothing, though I know what I know; but d-n my limbs, had fomebody • been trusted with the command of that f there expedition, the thing had turned f out otherwise to the glory of Old Eng-'land, else my name an't Strikefire: that's all. What, suppose there had 6 been a trifling wood or two in queftion? Was it any more than to remove the obstruction by setting fire to it, f as thus?' (at the same time applying the

the candle to Mr. Baal's wig, which finged several of its curls, and occasioned a disagreeable vapour in the room.) Or,' continued this fon of Mars, 'even fetting the matter upon this footing, that there had been a fouty river to be passed; I'll prove by a very simple experiment, that it might easily have been made to turn out to our ad-4 vantage. Suppose this here spoonful of punch, (pouring it upon the table) 'was the river Ohio in Americahere are the French - and here are the English - how easy a matter would it have been to convert the course of it by a little application? Don't vou plainly see, that by turning it off to the left, the channel is rendered dry, and confequently a safe passage for our army, while the new-inverted · ftream becomes a means to distress the enemy by an inundation? It is only comparing great things with small, and the matter is, beyond a doubt, proved to the fatisfaction of every Vol. II. 6 body.

body.— He that hath ears to hear, let him hear; and he that hath eyes to fee, let him fee, and be convinced to a demonstration, that we are all hum-bugg'd.— And, d—n me, men that are experienced in war, and versed in the art military, (and I could name you one—but I'll say no more) are kept under, with no other view, than to make room for a set of ignorant puppies, who have no pretensions to that honour, otherwise than their being the bastards to some rake-helly persons of quality.

I profess, Sir,' says Mr. Cottonwick,' a tallow-chandler, 'you are much in the right. It is now an easy matter to see, even with a man's eyes shut, why us citizens are loaded with fresh taxes every coming year — but let them look to it: Non omnia possumus omnes, is a phrase I remember these fifty years, which is just as much as to say, The ass can't bear more than

the ass may; and asses they make of us, by the L—d, to set such sh—tt—n a—f—d boys at the head of a regiment, when such worthy gentlemen, as you, Sir, are starving, as it were, upon half-pay.

The foldier was now dividing the stream of punch upon the table with great facility, in order to convince Mr. Cottonwick (for whom he had conceived a peculiar regard fince this instance of his approbation) how easy it would have been to have drowned the whole French army, by a little deviation of the Ohio from its present course; validating his affertions by quoting Darius, who, he observed, made nothing of Levelling mountains, and draining rivers on a march; when an old gentleman, who had not as yet opened his mouth, took the poker from the fire, and reaching over the table, gravely applied it to the hero's fingers. Aroused at the fmart of this application, he started back C. 2 in

in great fury, and affurning a most infernal grin, exclaimed, 'Blast your 'eyes! what's that for?' 'Only, Sir,' replied the other, 'that, as you took the liberty to burn Mr. Baal's wig, by 'way of illustration to your example of removing obstructions by fire, I 'might take the same freedom with your hand, the better to convince you, that in conslagrations of that nature, a man may perchance get a burnt finger,'

This shrewd observation produced an universal laugh at the soldier's expence, who was utterly disconcerted from carrying on his plan of drowning the French, at this juncture; which the poet no sooner perceived, who by this time had made an end of his first nap, than he snatched up the chamber-pot, and discharged it in his face, observing, that cold baths were the best specificks in the world for the refreshment

of a hero overheated with burning the woods of America; and that the Roman youth always delighted in exercices of that kind, after the fatigue of a hard day's march. But finding the officer did not take this piece of service so kindly as might have been wished, he threw down his reckoning and went out of the room, the better to avoid some expostulations which the soldier was preparing to make on the occasion; but not before he had in a fort of hysterick sit, laid hold of Mr. Baal's button, and pronounced with a loud voice,

Sun, moon, and flars, and ye, coeleftial poles, Are graves when dwindled into button-holes.

This second experiment put a final stop to the operations of the soldier for that night, who swore most horribly to cut the throat of the first man who should take such indecent freedoms with his person for the suture; and as to

that lunatick, the poet, the first time he should lay hands upon him, he would take care to give him such a drubbing as should not fail to put a most effectual stop to the farther progress of such impudence for the future.

By this time it was eleven o'clock. and I had some thoughts of retiring, when an old man came in puffing and blowing at a great rate; and by his extraordinary agitation feemed to have met with some very remarkable acci-When he had recovered his breath a little, he addressed the company as follows: 'Well! God in heaven deliver me from this wicked world! 6 Sodom and Gomorrha were but trifles to what is acted every night in our ftreets with impunity. - But mark the end of all. These wars, and rumours of war, will be no warning to this finful nation, 'till we experience • the fate that threatened Nineveh, and

' the

the wrath of the Almighty awaken us

in an earthquake. If I have been

flooped once this night by harlots

6 between this and Ludgate, I have been

fifty times. I wonder what the devil they

can see in my face! I am sure I don't

dress gay, and as I am upwards of

fixty-five, can be no temptation to

* their concupiscence: but so it is, that I

can't pass the distance of twenty yards

after fun-set, without being surrounded

by whole legions of them. Ah! I re-

* member some excellent lines, wrote

by fome body or other, applicable to

• the prefent purpose, and which I shall

• never forget were I to live to the age

of Methuselah. You shall hear them,

• Gentlemen:

See there, fond youth, whose over-boiling veins,

Big with the necar of diffilling love,
Call loudly for enjoyment; flun the lure
Of you fepulchre painted; those her cheeks,
Which proudly vie with the sweet blushing
rose,

C 4

Owe

Owe not their crimfon to her healthy blood: Nor are those teeth, that with the polish'd white

Of ivory for mastership contend, Ought but the framings of an artist's hand. That nose is none of hers, whose rising grace

Scems like a Cleopatra's, look but near,
'Tis but a cover to her fallen bridge.

Forbear to barter with her: lo! her breath,

That through the cavern of her pocky throat

Bespeaks her sulsome purpose, smites the air With soul contagion tainted. Wouldst thou wish

To 'scape more curses than Pandora's box Pour'd on the bosom of the trembling earth? Fly the allurements of her loath'd embrace.

- 4 There, there's description for you!
- Ought they not to be wrote in letters
- of gold? But, odso, Gentlemen, do
- but feel my gullet; their very breath,
- ' methinks, has infected me. Don't
- you plainly observe a large carbuncle
- egathered there, occasioned by the kiss

of one of them, who obliged me to that compliance, on pain of having my throat cut? I am actually a lost man, and shall be obliged to undergo a course of physick, though I have had no communication with the sex for half a century.——Woman, thy name is devil!

As he ended thus, he began to figh and fob most piteously. During this agitation, the drawer entered the room and defired to know if one Mr. Testy was in company, on which the new comer started up in great perturbation, and exclaimed, 'I am the man—Who has any business with me?' 'Sir.' favs the fervant, ' a gentleman here defires to have the honour to be intro-4 duced to you on a pressing emergency. On which the old gentleman cried out, If any person wants me, in the name of God let him advance; I am afraid of no man.' A figure now entered, C 5 whofe

whose head was buried in a huge peruke; and, after half a score congees, accosted the old gentleman in these words:

Your fervant, Mr. Tefty, I am extremely forry I had not the happiness to wait upon you fooner: but really our business is so hurried at this time. that we are fometimes obliged to difappoint our friends, even in despite of our universal benevolence to mankind. You must know, I called at 4 your house according to direction, about an hour ago, when they gave me to understand, that you was come here to drink punch. Now, Sir, give • me leave to tell you, that this is a very wrong step, considering the pre-• fent state of your health. The virulent particles of the infectious faliva will, upon the increased motion of your fluids, occasioned by the drinking of that warm liquor, take that opportu-

- " nity to infinuate themselves into the
- circulation. Your blood will become
- stainted, your bones infected, and na-
- * ture will not be able to ftand the
- shock of a salivation at these years.

Perceiving the old fellow confounded at this unexpected falutation, he went on: I have considered your case, Mr. Testy, with great accuracy, I do asfure you I have; and shall exert my

- utmost endeavours to rid you of this troublesome affair.—Come, Sir, chear
- up, you are not the first old man
- that has kiffed a girl a little unsea-
- fonably. Confider, bumanum est errare;
- and besides, a little powdering work
- will fet all to rights by and by.

This last observation of powdering overset his reason intirely; he began to storm like a madman, and snatching up the bellows, he threw it at the doctor's head with a 'G—d d—n you, 'Sir, I'll powder you, you scoundrel! 'Who

Who are you? and who fent for you here? I believe I am haunted by all the devils in hell.

' Psha, psha, Sir,' cried the doctor very gravely, ' leave off trifling.-What, I suppose you are offended because I have been a little too public in my declaration. But you ought to remember, Sir, that "what is trans-" acted in private, shall be openly re-" yealed on the house-tops." Besides. here are none but select friends: therefore mind me. Two of these pills at 'night, and three in the morning will do the business. The malignant virus 4 must be dissipated, every nerve must be visited, and nature relieved from the incroachments of the poison, before you 4 can be at liberty to indulge yourfelf in 'any thing stronger than water-gruel.'

The mention of water-gruel enraged him tenfold. He cried out in great bitterness of spirit, 'You, with your pills and

of Hamilton Murray.

and your flops, may be d—n'd; I am fironger in constitution than fifty of your young smock-faced puppies, and will sooner die than be forced to put up with a potion.—But, who the devil are you?

"O fie upon it, Mr. Testy," says my friend Dick, whom I now perceived was at the bottom of the farce, "you are much in the wrong, I do assure you, and I beg leave to take the liberty to tell you so.— Here you was complaining a little while ago of a carbuncle in your throat; and now when the doctor has been so good as to wait upon you at this unseasonable hour, you affront him, by pretending you have no such disorder: now, this is very sillily done of you, it is indeed."

At the word, carbuncle, the doctor affumed great surprise, and laying hands on the patient, observed, that if the venom

37

venom was got to that length, there was an immediate necessity for a good smart fumigation, in order to promote a difcharge. So faving, he called up the waiter, bid him get a red-hot heater and a funnel with all expedition, and then began to lug out a huge parcel of powders, which he ranged upon the table in admirable order. All this time, the old gentleman was fo aftonished at these unaccountable proceedings, that he had only power to bless himself in a multiplicity of ejaculations: but when he faw the red-hot iron fet upon a footman on the table, and that the doctor, in conjunction with Dick and two others, were preparing to force the neck of the funnel down his throat, in order to begin the fumigation, he made fuch violent efforts to be disengaged, that he overfet the table, and pitched the flaming heater upon the legs of the man of war, who fet up to tremendous a yell, that the landlord came running up flairs to know the reason of this uncommon



AMILTON MURRAY.

39

an hobbled off in great agonies, ttering, 'My God! these are I can by no means under'while the soldier took that nity to sculk away, without payreckoning, not a little glad to ved his money, though at the of a pair of burnt shins.

which the company broke up time, and I retired with Dick, igly diverted at the humours of



CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Refolve to visit Tunbridge.—Set out in the stage-coach, and have an opportunity to observe the singular humour of one of the passengers. — Are attacked on the road by a couple of highwaymen, where a specimen of sea-courage is exhibited worthy the imitation of all brothers of the blade.

THIS way of spending my evenings afforded me matter of much satisfaction; but as most of these sort of meetings were now, from the season of the year diminishing apace, I soon sound myself under a necessity to seek for amusement elsewhere.

I had heard much talk, and many high encomiums on the fashionable diversions at Tunbridge, and from a desire of initiating myself by times in all the amusements of the polite world, I resolved

of Hamilton Murray.

41

resolved to take a trip thither. As for the expences attending a jaunt of this nature, they gave me no fort of uneafiness: I had already settled fifteen hundred pounds in the manner afore-mentioned, and the balance of my fortune was a fund intirely fet apart for my pleasures, and to satisfy my desire of feeing the world. Upon this plan, I got myself in readiness, and next morning set out for the wells in the Tunbridge Machine. As we went off exceeding early in the morning, most of my fellow-travellers were making themfelves amends by heartily fnoring, for the little rest they had enjoyed the preceding night, fo that I had no opportunity to observe who and who were together.

We proceeded in this state of silence for two hours, till the carriage giving a lean to one side, occasioned by the wheel's getting into a deep rut, a hoarse voice

at my elbow broke out in these words:

- 'Yo ho, forward there, you forecastle
- ' men, why don't you hawl in the jib-
- ' fheet? D-n your limbs, can't you
- fee the ship is all in the wind, and the
- weather-leach of the fore-fail shivers?
- 'You feamen? you be d-n'd!'

To this a female voice replied,

- Lord, Mr. Stayfail, don't expose your-
- felf in this manner before strangers:
- we have no feaman here but yourfelf.
- 'You will disturb the company, who
- 'most of them are asseep, and seem
- very well content to trust the manage-
- " ment of the coach to the driver."
- 'No, d-n me, I think not,' quoth Stayfail, 'I can find easy enough there
- ' is no seaman here besides myself, that's
- a fure thing; but d'ye think, 'tis fit-
- ting as how a vessel of this burden
- 's should be trusted at such an offing
- without proper hands to stand by the

' fails;

'fails? I'll tell you what Bess, the passengers may sleep on if they woul; 'they know no better: but let me 'alone to mind the helm and sheet. 'The frigate is damnation crank, that's 'the truth on't, and that dog at the 'wheel there, instead of giving her a good 'weatherly helm, is always shoving the 'rudder down, hard a lee, d——n his 'eyes.'

At this juncture, the coach giving a violent jolt, occasioned, I suppose, by crossing over some uneven ground, the lieutenant, for so I shortly understood him to be, after several ejaculations of a d—n'd head sea here, that dog gives her such hellish yaws that we shall certainly broach to; put his head out of the coach-door, and harangued the driver thus: 'Hark ye, Mr. Land-lubber, who learnt you to stand by the wheel? you had better mind your touches, and keep a sharp eye to the main-sail;

for if you don't steer better, I'll bring your d-n'd head by the board, I

will fo, d-n me. Thof I an't upon

deck, I can fee well enough from the

cabin-windows what a miferable wake

the veffel cuts, d-n your peepers, all

one like the figure of eight in a log-

book.

By this time it was day-light, when the lieutenant began to take off the lashings, as he called them, of the dead lights, that he might make an observation in what latitude he was; but this motion was violently opposed by a young fellow on the opposite seat, wrapt up in an enormous great coat, who no sooner began to feel the encroachment of fresh air upon the relaxed pores of his body, than his teeth chattered in his head, and he underwent the influence of an universal ague-sit; so true is the observation of an ingenious writer, that,

of Hamilton Murray. 45

- " Dissolv'd in ease, and soft delights they lie,
- "Till every fun annoys, and every wind
- " Has chilling force, and every rain offends;
- " For now the frame no more is girt with
 " ftrength
- " Masculine, nor, in lustiness of heart,
- " Laughs at the winter-storm, and summer-" beam,
- " Superior to their rage. Enfeebling vice
- "Withers each nerve, and opens every pore
- " To painful feeling."

But if this action of the lieutenant's was injurious to the shattered remains of the beau, it was equally disagreeable to the rest of the company, more especially to an antiquated belle, whose attire exhibited the picture of old age and deformity, dressed up in the tawdry embellishments of sisteen, who began to take him very roundly to task for discommoding people of fashion by his insolent behaviour, and who did him too much honour in coming within the circle of a coach with him; and

concluded her oration with giving him the title of Greenland bear.

Our hero, who just understood so much of her meaning as to let him know she could not make use of that appellation, as an expression of her refpect, made answer, 'Why, Madam, to be fure as you fay, you are of the fashion, but what kind of a fashion I believe will be as puzzlesome to find out as the longitude. To my feeing, 'you look more like a Venetian galley double painted, than an English vessel, fquare rigged; and as to what you chatter about Greenland bears, mayhap it would become you better to wear your own sheathing, like a good honest Greenland bear, than hang out false 6 colours by way of decoy; for any man may foon find out your trim, and being so far to the northward of the equinoctial of your age, will foon discover, you are hardly worth the boarding.

This

This altercation might have been carried on a great deal farther, had not the coachman given the alarm, that two highwaymen appeared upon the heath, which foon put an end to their wrangling, and spread almost universal terror through the company.

Our lieutenant, like an experienced seaman, after observing the position of the enemy, who appeared about two furlongs distance upon a rising ground, very deliberately ordered the coachman to keep his luff, 'till he should get a little farther a-head; when being advanced to a proper station, 'Now,' says he, 'let us hawl up our courses, and ' lay the main-top-fail to the mast; we 'shall see, we shall see, what these pyratical fons of bitches are made of 'prefently.' So faying, he feized his two pistols and cutlas, and inviting all hands to follow his example and man the great guns, jumpt upon the ground with

with great fierceness, and invited the robbers to come along-fide.

As the want of courage was never a personal defect of mine, I followed him, which the brave tar perceiving, commended me vaftly, and invited a fellow in livery, who was mounted behind, to join us, but he thought proper to excuse himself, by observing, that fighting was none of his occupation; that he was not hired to fire pistols, but to dress wigs, to air shirts, and introduce a girl in the dark genteely; and that he was more used to the perfume of musk and pomatum, than the stinking effluvia of gun-powder, to which he had all his days bore a most fingular aversion. The beau pleaded much the same antipathy to the compound of nitre, as his footman; so that we were left to defend ourselves the best way we could.

However, the highwaymen seeing u= fo well prepared for them, thought pro

Af HAMILTON MURRAY.

49

per to sheer off for that time; on which we re-assumed our seats, not a little glad of having got rid of such unwelcome guests at the expence of a little welltimed bravery.

CHAP. III.

Wherein the characters of my fellowtravellers are farther displayed.

As during some occasional discourse that happened after our late adventure, I understood that my fellow-passenger the beau, who I soon sound was a lawyer, had passed the preceding summer at the place we were bound to, I thought the acquaintance of such a person would be extremely useful in letting me into the history and customs of the place. Accordingly I made some advances towards an intimacy, and succeeded so well, that, by Vol. II.

the time we reached the town, we were upon an extreme good footing together, and agreed to lodge both in the same house, for the better improvement of our acquaintance. It is very probable, the adventure of the robbers contributed not a little to the bringing this about with the greater facility; for whether he was really ashamed of his own cowardly behaviour, and afraid I should expose him; or my carriage on that occasion had enhanced me in his opinion, is uncertain; but, to use a very common phrase, he met me half way, and even endeavoured to apologize for his inactivity, by laying the blame upon a d-n'd cold he had contracted the winter before, at lady Betty Quadril's rout, which he observed, by his neglecting to fee council time enough, had degenerated into a rheumatism, and also threatened his lungs with a profecution, and that after feveral fruitless attempts towards making an ejectment of the distemper, he had been advised by the faculty

of Hamilton Murray.

31

faculty to try air and exercise, in consequence of which he was then actually removing himself by habeas corpus to Tunbridge, where he was in good hopes of nonsuiting his adversary before the next sessions of parliament.

The lieutenant, who was a wag in his way, advised him, with an arch-grin, to get along-side of the enemy first, yard-arm, and yard-arm, and endeavour to rake him fore and aft: in which case he took notice, that some of doctor Rock's single pounders would do great execution; and an old woman, who sat on the opposite seat of the coach, told him, that there was more efficacy in assessments milk than in all the physick in the world.

Innocent as this observation might appear, yet there was something in it which greatly offended the nice ears of the good lady who had at first called our sea-officer a Greenland bear. She

wondered, she said, that a person of her age could be fo indelicate as to even hint fuch a thing - that the mentioning affes milk, carried along with it a very impure idea, even no less than that the young gentleman had been naughty with the wenches, to need fuch restoratives at his age. Then furveying the young woman, who adhered to the feaman, with great contempt, took notice, it was no wonder if the constitutions of our youth were ruined before they were half ripe, when so many audacious flirts were every day feen gallanting it about with fellows: whereas, would they be only so wise as to attach themselves to women of discretion and fober conversation, giving her head a toss at the same time, no such devastation to their health would ever happen.

This curious harangue made me laugh exceedingly, and I could not help admiring the nice penetration of the speaker,

fneaker, who could fo admirably draw fuch conclusions from the expression of affes milk; which brought a passage into my mind that I have somewhere read, concerning the delicacy of an old maid, who was so extremely modest, that she could not even hear the mention of the word stone, though even in compound, fuch as free-stone, firestone, &c. without being very sensibly affected. But the necessary occupation of a mantua-maker, taylor, or milliner, could not be uttered in her presence without being attended by still more alarming symptoms; for if at any time a thoughtless waiting-maid was so imprudent as to express herself in this manner: 'La, Ma'am, a small rent in your ladyship's ruffle wants to be 'new stitch'd:' the effect of these tremendous words were instantaneous; down fell the lady in a terrible fit, the poor maid was fure to be discharged, and nothing but confusion and dismay was to be feen in every quarter.

D 3

But

But to return .- This reproof feemed not to be loft upon either of the parties to whom it was addressed : the old woman began to growl a little on the occasion; and the officer's companion, who appeared to be well versed in the language of Covent-garden, was proceeding to make reprifals, when a very curious scene of altercation was put a stop to, by our coach, that instant, driving into the inn-yard. However, the lieutenant found means to address her in the name of the rest thus: " Well behaved, old Beachy, well behav'd and strong! You got a good breadth of beam a midship's, and car-' ries a taught fail, I warrant ye; but clap you once upon a wind in a fmart fea-way, if you don't wriggle ' your stern like any Foulkstone-cutter, 'I'll be d-n'd; and fo good bye to ve.

As he finished these words, the carriage stopt, and we were preparing to descend

55

descend from our leathern convenience, when a tawdry young fellow approached the coach-door, and in an Irish accent inquired if one Mrs. Afterday was among the passengers: 'For if she ish 'not,' says he, 'I must be after sol-'lowing her to meet her, and if she ish 'here, I must e'en content myself in 'her abshence, to stay till she comes.'

The old lady, whose contenance exhibited no very pleafing aspect at the officer's late farcasm, no sooner perceived this welcome visiter than the contraction of her features relaxed apace, and she cried out with an air of great exultation, 'My dear O'Shannon, who could ever have expected to fee you here? Well, though this is the very fupreme quintessence of politeness, and 'evidently displays your attachment and tafte (here she bridled up exceedingly, and beheld the young female with a look of great superiority) yet I shall 'politively never pardon this infringement

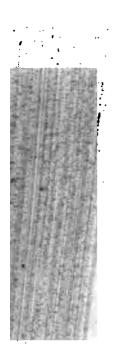
- " ment of my absolute commands, un-
- · less you immediately deliver me from
- this fea-calf, monfter, devil, who has
- s infulted me to the last degree of su-
- * perlative fcurrility, during my impri-
- * fonment in the dirty stage.

The lover, whose hopes of finding her had been tinctured with some degree of uncertainty, feeing his delire fo agreeably gratified, could not contain his transport, which immediately broke out with, 'Arrah now, are you after being there, my dear honey? Crift bless your own shweet fashe, for telling me tho. But what ish that you shay? 'Has any man preshum'd to be unshi-* villy rude to your ladyship, madam? 'Ir's well for the villain that I am here, ' and wash not abshent at the time. By ' J-s, I'll shoon pink hish shoul's body to your heart's dishcontent, faith will I.' So faying, he advanced furiously towards the lieutenant, when a very confiderable check was given to his

57

his courage, by observing the muzzle of a blunderbuss pointed from the coach-window, while his antagonist addressed him thus: 'Harkee, Mr. Bogtrotter, fland to the leeward there! 'I fay, stand to the leeward! If you 'launch one inch farther a-head, I'll flow in your bow-ports, I woul fo; I'll fend you to the bottom, all one as a scuttled galley, d-n my mizen. · So I wou'd advise you to brace about and fill. The prize you cruise for 'isn't aboard her, unless may hap this crazy hulk be she, who is little better 'as old lumber, and only fitting to be hove along-side, to bate such Irish ' sharks as you are.'

These mortifying words, and the gestures that accompanied them, effectually sinished what the blunderbuss had begun. The prudent lover, after exclaiming, 'Faith and troth, Madam, 'your ladyship ish in the right of it—



anu diiappea his mistress t as well as she took this opp fmartly on th tachment of he observing, his was no less ad readily convert man barber in embroidered be ther would it b prise, if so de should whirl him though at the e. ladyship upon the

Whether the

ment, in order to consult upon the operations of the next day, which now wholly engrossed our attention.

CHAP. IV.

Visit the wells.—Some account of that place, and the company that frequent it.—Am introduced to several of the lawyer's acquaintance.—Visit the walks, the shops, and coffee-houses.—Engage at billiards, and come off a winner. — Take lodgings on mount Sinai.—Character of monsieur Rhubarbe our landlord, and that of his wife.

Mr. Smatterwit, I fallied from our inn, and paid a visit to the wells, where we found the company already employed in taking their morningdraughts,

draughts, gay as Flora, and in the most beautiful dishabille. Nothing, sure, can equal the pleasure attending these sort of excursions. The musick striking up the most inchanting harmony; the splendid shops; the cossee houses; the brilliancy of the visitors; all together conspire to make it a sort of terrestrial paradise.

We next adjourned to a coffee-house, where we breakfasted. Here my companion introduced me to several of his acquaintance, in the character of a young gentleman possessed of a very good estate in the north: a circumstance which, though I had never once hinted at, yet I was in no humour to contract dict, as I saw it contributed not a litt towards heightening my importance the eyes of every one. Accordingly found myself very politely received all of them, and an appointment w= made to meet the same evening up the walks, in order to enjoy the dive sions of the place.

In the afternoon we reforted to one of the bowling-greens, where we diverted ourselves some time very agreeably. The night was spent in the same delightful manner as the day had been. After sauntring from one shop to another upon the walks, where all the company appeared in the greatest splendor, we retired to a coffee-house, and bilkiards engressed our whole attention till almost dawn of day; by which time, after several vicissitudes of chance, I found myself thirty-two guineas in pocket.

This good fortune just upon my arrival charmed me; and I should have found my satisfaction absolutely complete, had I only been blessed with an agreeable semale partner, but this was a circumstance not so easily obtained at Tunbridge wells; where, though perhaps there is no place in England that a greater variety of genteel company are so be met with, yet, on the other hand,

hand, no where is there a greater referve maintained by the ladies towards a stranger, than here. A formal salutation, en passant, or the accidental interchange of a few compliments upon the walks, by no means can entitle a stranger to a nearer acquaintance; and, without a necessary introduction by some friend or intimate, it is next to impossible tocommence any sort of correspondence with a lady; I mean with a lady of wirtue.

As scandal is in no place circulate with greater eagerness or malignity, and where a reputation once tainted, is absolutely irretrievable, perhaps there may be good reason for so uncommon a distance: yet, gaiety, politeness, and brilliant wit are no where to be found in greater persection than at Tunbridge.

Like most other places of public refort, it abounds with a multiplicity of characters. Here are lords, pimps, ladies-

63

dies, whores, highwaymen, and fortunehunters: neither is it deficient in this last branch of business, even of semale practitioners; so that it is sometimes no uncustomary thing to find an adventurer in petticoats, whom you perhaps have enjoyed some agreeable minutes with a few months before, at a London bagnio, here strutting it in the season, with all the magnificence of a rich widow, or an opulent heiress, untouched by man.

Some refort to Tunbridge, merely for the fake of amusement, and to killtime (which otherwise would hang heavy on their hands) in a continual round of mirth and pleasure. Others are attracted here by the powerful character of the mineral waters; so that it very often happens, that, while their influence is courted in removing the reproachful curse of sterility, the reputation accruing therefrom, is wholly engrossed by a set of Hibernian operators, residing upon the spot, who are extremely serviceable

viceable on these occasions, though posfessed of no other qualifications to recommend them to the favour of their employers, than brawny shoulders, and other appendages of Herculean virility which compose the ingredients of a chairman or ticket porter; endowments, however despicable in the eyes of a fribble, or a Temple beau, yet when tinctured with a sufficient degree of welltimed impudence, are of infinite repute in the fields of Venus, and never fail to be properly valued by those experienced matrons, who are wise enough to prefer downright substance to mere shadow.

Its vicinity to London makes it frequently reforted to by another species of visitors; such as young journeymen linen-drapers, second-hand gentlemen, and attornies clerks. These commonly come down on a Saturday, and disappear on a Monday morning. Yet, insignificant as these heroes may appear, if you chance to step into a cossection.

house where any of them resort in town. your ears are immediately dunned with the noise of their adventures at the wells: a word which is never five minutes out of their mouths. One runs himself out of breath in displaying the amiable qualifications of a certain countels, whose dear company he had lately enjoyed very agreeably, tête-à-tête. Another produces a most amorous billet-doux, which he decently infinuates is the dear hand-writing of lady dowager ----. Indeed, there is one thing which manifestly contradicts all they fay, which is, that these ladies are excessively upon the reserve in public. and even affect to be utterly ignorant of the happy men, who but a little before were faid to have engroffed fo large a portion of their favour. But if the ladies are so wilfully blind, these young heroes are much more quickfighted; not one of them but can spy confenting love even in a disdainful frown, and trace out the fignal for an assigna-

affignation, through the window-curtains of a lady's bed-chamber; which extraordinary discernment frequently occasions vast homage being paid to a non-entity, while a most gracious bow, accompanied with a smile of the utmost familiarity, is often directed to that quarter of the gardens, where a right honourable is seated; though these instances of politeness have the missortune to be totally disregarded, and for this very good reason, because the party they were directed to, happens at that juncture to look another way.

So much for Tunbridge-wells. And if I have not been accurate enough in my description, it must be wholly attributed to my short stay, and too much haste in forming a judgment from appearances, not to any backwardness mine to relate the truth,

In consequence of this general referve among the ladies, nothing in the world

67

world could have happened more lucky than my accidental rencounter with the lawyer, as by his means I had none of these difficulties to labour under, which a stranger generally meets with on his first appearance; and before I had been three days upon the spot, I ound myself on a very good footing with several genteel families, and began o enjoy the gaiety of the place with a nigh relish.

All this while we never could find eifure to remove from the inn; but tow it was high time to provide ourelves with proper lodgings. Accordngly my companion carried me to the touse of monsieur Rhubarbe, a French spothecary, situated on mount Sinai, where he had lodged the preceding seaton, with whom we were quickly furnished with genteel apartments.

Our landlord, whose accent and diction would have sufficiently bespoke him

him a foreigner without any other information, received us both with an extremity of politeness peculiar, indeed, to his native country, which, after the example of the antient patriarch, he had quitted some years before, with a view of seeking a wife and habitation among strangers, actuated no doubt thereto from the old established reason, that a prophet has seldom honour in his own country.

However that was, he seemed very well pleased to have us for his lodgers, and perceiving my friend to look exceeding thin upon it, accosted him thus: 'Ha, mon very good friend, 'monsieur Smattervit, serviteur très-humble; I am very glad to see you 'at de velle. But vat be your ma-lady? you look exceeding pouvre in 'de complexion.——Ha, ha! now I understan vat be de matter vid you: 'you kis a de lady too mush. If you no 'strike a de girl, den you no go in to 'de

s specimen of mine host's wit, 1 extremely entertaining to me. no means relished by my comwho broke off all farther conon on that head with him for me, by inquiring after the health wife; a circumstance, it seems, the poor man could not recollect it a very fensible emotion, for he his head with a most emphatick cation, while he replied, 'Vy, vou, monsieur Smattervit, my be very good health, and keep grand appetite for de beuf and nuttone to admiration: and vat A hettar has brought me won

This last piece of news was a circumstance my friend was unacquainted with; so, after congratulating him on the happiness of his having an heir to his estate, and to give him time to recove himself from the confusion which the bare mentioning of his wife had occasioned, we hurried away to a private rastle of a filver tea-kettle, where a young lady I had lately contracted as intimacy with, through his means, was a subscriber, to whom I intended to present this costly toy, should fortune so order it that I came off with the prize.

In our way thither he gave me to understand, that the Frenchman had been married some years to the daughter of a wealthy butcher in the neighbourhood, though as diametrically opposite to her loving spouse, in regard to her person, as her intellects; for, whereas he might be said to exhibit no imperfect idea of Pharaoh's lean kine, she on the other hand, communicated the picture

71

picture of plenty, wherever she appeared, and might, with great propriety, be distinguished by the appellation of a Wapping landlady, whose circumference she represented to the extent of the phrase.

The cause of this extraordinary meagerness in the doctor was given out by himself to be wholly occasioned by his excessive study, being greatly addicted to the science of astrology, as well as physic; but in reality was said to derive its source from his avaritious disposition, which confined him to a diet purely vegetable; while the dilution of his clay was no other than simple element.

CHAP. V.

An' odd occurrence happens at my lodgings, which involves my land-lord in a most ridiculous situation.—
In consequence of a very disastrous accident, I leave the wells in dif-grace, and return to London.

NE morning, as I was coming down stairs, in order to make my appearance at the wells, as usual, I saw my landlord before me, wrapt up in an old night-gown, with a naked child in his arms, stealing hastily towards the back-yard, and every now and then directing a wistful look behind him, as if fearful of being discovered. ceiving, however, that I had detected him in this lituation, he beckoned me to be filent, crying, 'Hush, hush, God · a bless a you, master Murray, do no ' fay von vord, else you vil vake my vife. Come a dis vay, an you sal 6 behold

73

behold de finest operation in de varld. de best universal specific in all de whole practife of physic.' So saying, he approached a large bathing-tub full of waer, and after crying, 'Now, master Murrav. now for de businness; plunged the child over head and ears into it. which he repeated several times without interruption. While I was admiring this fingular experiment, a noise was heard as of a person descending the fairs, at which the doctor started back in manifest confusion, crying out, 'Foutre 'diable! as I am living foul, dat is "my vife; now ve fal have von fine *kitel of fish presentely.' But before he had recovered himself enough to think of a retreat, his wife entered, and no foner perceived her darling fon in this dipping condition, than she flew at him with the utmost fury, snatched the child from his trembling arms, and with a dextrous management of her right hand, foon made him supply the child's late place, by tumbling him YOL. II. head-E

head-long into the water; at the fame time roaring, 'What, you villain kill 'my fon? Not content to poison him with your d—n'd slip-slops, but you 'must drown him also?'

Parbleu, madam,' replied the doctor, recovering from his watery fituation, vat a you mean by this ulage? I no vant to kill a de boy, but to ' strengten his nerve, brace his muscle, an make a him ftrong. - I have con-' fult de star, an find your fon vil be 'von verv big man, a great docteur and astrologe; but he must no est ' any ting but vater-gruel an fage-tes. 'His horoscope is de best horoscope in de varld. Mercury is lord of de 'afcendant, an in dis geniture, Saturn ' fall into de six house of de Virgo; en fin, all the planet have von very fine 'aspect; but he is fickly garçon, fo I ' give him de cold baat to make him ' von vigrous young man.'

6 At very fine excuse this, truly, for murdering my child!' faid the wife; but you want to get rid of us both. that's it. Yes, you villain, you do: you know you do. --- But pray, if cold baths have the strengtening quality you would have me believe, how comes it they have had no better effect upon you, who have try'd them fo long? you poor sapless twig, you! God knows, I have found thee a weak, insufficient animal for all your bathing, dieting, and physicking. But, as I faid before, 'tis only a pretence to get rid of us both to fave expences. that you use me and my child thus; but I'll tear your eyes out, I will, ere you shall accomplish your abominable ends. She then flew at him with urpriling fury, and began to buffet im so heartily, that I was obliged to nterpose, and with no little difficulty arevailed upon her to retire, and fuffer er husband, to go up to his chamber,

to put on dry clothes, for he was dripping wet with his late immersion: when she was gone, he returned me thanks for my timely affistance, and shaking his head, whispered in my ear, my vife, master Murray, be great grands fifter to de very diable.

This scene took me up so much time, that before I had fairly adjusted matters between them, it was too late to go out that morning. However I confeled myfelf for this disappointment, by receilecting that there was to be a ball the same night, at which I did not fail to be prefent, and displayed my qualifications in dancing with fo much adcrefs to a young lady, who did me the pleasure of accepting me for her partner in a country-dance, that I perceived I gained very fast upon her inclinations. This discovery made me still more in favour with myfelf, and added not a little towards heightening the good

77

good opinion I had already conceived of my importance. The nymph, warm with wine and exercife, seemed already melted into current love. I seized the critical minute before she had time to relapse into sober thinking, and plyed my part so well, that we lest the rooms ong before the ball broke up, and retired to her lodgings, where, absorbed in the enjoyment of so delicate a creature, I gave a loose to love and transport, while the embraces of my lovely partner seemed already to advance me above the happiness of a mortal.

In this blissful situation I fell asleep; but my surprise was inconceivable, when I found myself alone in the morning without the least traces of a bed-sellow. Confounded at this unexpected removal, I began to recollect several passages of the preceding night; and from the strange vacuity of cash that appeared in my pockets, and the absence of my E 3 repeater,

repeater, I foon had reason to believe my loving partner was cousin-german to the Epsom lady, who had so ingeniously contributed to pillage me before. I taxed the people where she lodged of being confederates, but as this could not be proved, I only exposed myself by it, which filled me with so much vexation, that I confined myself to my room for some time.

However, as there was no help, I repaired to the walks one day with a view todiffipate my chagrin: but here the face of things were changed. The young lady, with whom I had heretofore carried on an intimacy, now declined my advances; the real cause of my quitting the ballroom was already spread over the place; I saw myself scorned and laughed at, and what was worse, my fair partner had left me such convincing tokens of her profession, as left me no room to doubt it could be any other than that of a common

79

non profitute. In this alarming fituaion, deftitute of money, and deprived of health, I was fain to return again o London, where I foon after arrived n a state of violent mortification.

CHAP. VI.

I am visited by the stock-broker, who finds great fault with my method of life. — Harangues me on the advantages resulting from a strenuous application to business, and advises me to commence trader. — I approve of his proposal, and sell off my moveables, when I experience an uncommon instance of the roguery of man.

good friend Mr. ——, the stockbroker, paid me a visit, whom I had not seen since my first arrival in town.

E 4 After

After the usual compliments, he expressed his satisfaction at sinding me in so flourishing a way of life, and congratulated me on my good fortune, in having so early attracted the attention of the sair, by whose affishance, he observed, I must certainly be enabled to go on so gaily; and, after some hesitation, asked me how long I had been married?

I was surprised at a question of this nature, and told him he was for this cance mistaken in his conjectures, for that I had never as yet suffered the least thought of matrimony to intrude upon my mind; adding, it was time enough to think of a wife, when I had seen a little more of the world, and that at present I was disposed to act the part of the bee, who pilsers sweets from every slower, and ranges uncontrouled through the whole circle of nature's delights.

. intelligence, which I deli-. a very theatrical accent, he zed up his shoulders, and with .t fagacity observed, that it was a ry pretty amusement, could it but 1ast, and were it attended with the real advantages of the industrious bee, who stores his own hive at the expence of the whole vegetable creation; 'but I 'fancy,' continued he, 'you differ widely from the bee in this particular, s as you generally pay fauce for the ' fweets you mention; and after all may cry out with the prophet," "Sweet in "the mouth, but bitter in the belly." He then observed, that, for his part, he had not only taken it for granted that I was married, but married to an heiress of the first rank, by the figure I cut; and if it was otherwise, he should look upon me in little better light than that of a madman.

Confounded at this infinuation, I defired to be acquainted with his reasons E 5 for



myielt for all the pences attending my I should soon find reestity of a very nand advised me fer some employment, very power, that might a tain the station of both profit and hono

faid he, 'there is me by your launching bounded and useless then you never co. quences; or if a the ture now and then pe shove it aside, and it while you can. Tethen is plainted.

your money, comes the van of your
fober reflection. And give me leave

to observe to you, that, although the

egratification of those appetites which

* mature has given us, is the fole end

of all our pursuits, yet the prudent

man will always have it in remem-

brance, that money is the fundamen-

stal support of all pleasures, and will

sccordingly apply himself strenuously

* towards its purchase.*

Now,' continued he, 'what I would infer from all this is, that fince your temper is so turned for the indulgence of pleasure, you should look out for some business, to enable you to live a rake with credit, and supply the demands of your appetites by a fresh and daily influx of cash. For believe me, when I tell it you as a truth, that let any man, more especially a young one, dress gaily, live splendidly and magnificently, there are not wanting a set of people, that will be con-

" continually prying into the fituation of his finances and dependance; they will first find out with great assiduity who you are, and what is your occu-* partion: if it is hinted that you are * a gentleman, and above minding any " buliness at all, their next care is to " fathom the depth of your rent-roll, " and if upon fearch they shall find you deficient in this important article, · in will immediately fer you down · in their mind as an extravagant young relieu, brimful of folly, and in the · heart to beggary and destruction; for even if their thoughts should not · conta upon this point, they will ne-· certific conclude, that fuch a man is and no very laudable way of life, and min entirely fatisfied, that he supports . his extravagancies either by gratify-· ing the falacious demands of fome wealthy old widow, or in raising con-* tributions on the public by the trite 'experient of a nittol.'

This way of reasoning had its due weight with me; and, having thanked him very heartily for so kind an instance of his attachment and regard to my interest, begged him to advise me how to proceed, as being of myself utterly unqualified to be a judge in these matters; adding, that I should not fail to improve his good council to the best advantage; on which he went on.

I have been confidering,' faid he, of fome employment that would be proper for you, and after some little deliberation, think the trader is the most prositable, the most honourable, and the best adapted to your inclination and abilities. Trade is the grand bulwark and defence of these kingdoms: it supplies us at home with every useful and ornamental manufacture, and advances our reputation abroad, more than our arms: it fills our streets with gilded equipages,

86

and replenishes the shattered fortunes of our decayed nobility, by their taking our daughters in marriage; fo that in a few centuries, he that was but an inconsiderate, private man, will from the mighty advantages refulting from trade, be a means of advancing fome of his posterity to the first peers of the nation. I therefore think, by all means, that trade is the readiest means to advance your fame and fortune; but as there are various branches of merchandife, we must confider what is most proper for your ' comprehension and capital. — Let ' me fee ---- What would you think of the linen way? I have dealt some years • very fuccessfully in that branch, in the vending of Scotch cloths; fometimes on my own account, and fometimes in the quality of a factor for others: and as I have a large acquaintance both here and in Scotland, could be " more able to give you my advice in that way than in any other. If you aps approve of this proposal, you may I lodge in my house, the better to be always on occasion near me, and also have an opportunity of converfing with men of business. I can, by the help of my friends, fettle a correspondence betwixt you and fome eminent manufacturers in the north, who can fupply you with five hundred pounds worth of linen for a trial; and you can occasionally mix in other methods of trade, as you find how things fucceed, for you are to be in the wholefale way. A ware-house, a counting-6 house and a back parlour will be sufficient, as you are a fingle man; befides, there is this advantage, that no fooner do you begin to make a figure upon change, than I can put you in the way to fnap up some rich merchant's daughter with perhaps a fortune of twenty or thirty thousand 'pounds, and then you are done for to 'all intents and purposes. So, what do you fay? Say!

Say! Sir,' faid I, 'I don't know what to fay. I am in transports at your agreeable proposal; and amonly ready to hang myself that I had not the happiness to know this sooner. However, I'll set about it directly, if

you think fixteen hundred pounds are

fufficient to make a beginning.'

Without doubt they are, quoth he. 'Why, Sir, I'll tell you: when I began first to trade upon my own bottom, which was about fifteen years ago, I had not two hundred pounds in the world; and now, thank God, I can say without vanity, that I have paid many a time five thousand pounds before breakfast, and yet had a sufficient fund in bank-stock to supply any emergency.'

He then told me, as I had embraced the proposal, he should expect me that day at his house to dinner, and took his leave for that time, leaving me one

of the happiest young fellows in the Universe; as I had, by the help of a lucky imagination, which never failed me in the worst extremity, converted myself into one of the directors of the bank of England, and married to a most beautiful young lady with half a million sterling.

I now fet about a thorough reformation indeed; and looking upon my fortune as infallibly made, under the direction of a man fo thoroughly experienced in business, and whom I esteemed as the very quintessence of disinterested honour, I began immediately to form a resolution of selling off my moveables for ready money.

With this view I called up my mistress, whom I had now kept for three months, and, telling her I had no farther occafion for her, as I had happily recovered my senses, and was besides going into the country; discharged her from all future

future fervice, notwithstanding all her intreaties to the contrary. Nay, such a turn of mind had my new friend given me, as to the use and abuse of money, that I could not be prevailed upon to give her a single guinea over what was her stipulated allowance.

I next fold off my horse for ten guiness, for which I had paid forty: but soon consoled myself for this unconscienable discount by recollecting, that there ten guineas would soon fetch ten more, which could not fail to improve the number soon to thirty, and the first lucky sale of a few pieces of my Scotch cloth would infallibly produce the other ten, and defray all the expences of his keeping besides.

I then went to a picture dealer, of whom I had but a little before purchased some fine Italian and Flemish paintings, with a desire to take them again at a reasonable discount, as I had left off housekeeping;

91

keeping; but he excused himself from this job, by observing, that the season was already over, when those commodities were fittest for market; besides, he was obliged to go down to Wales on a pressing emergency, and was then actually out of cash: but advised me by all manner of means, to keep them till the next year, when I could not fail to sell them all to a very good account, particularly my Cleopatra, for which I had paid him thirty guineas.

I now went to another of this honourable tribe, and offered to fell them
to him; but he told me with a fneer,
that they were all miserable copies of
some English practitioners, from second-hand originals, and hinted, that
Moorfields was the fittest place for
them, where perhaps I might find some
ignorant broker filly enough to give me
sive pounds for the whole.

This,

This, however, did not disconce—me in the least, as I took it to proceed from spleen, for having formerly refused to lay out money with him on such a content occasion; and I determined to preserve them all for the better decorating my new apartments. I disposed of several other effects all to the same modest discount as my horse: but as my trading scheme had elevated may mind above being chagrined at such trisses, I assumed great chearfulness, and went to dine with my benefactor in a transport of joy.



CHAP. VII.

to dine with the stock-broker.—
n entertained, during this repast,
h the humours of some of the franity: — Make a blustering sigure
the change.— Deal largely in the
nch of insurance.— Am waited
on by a new customer, who charms
with his easy and elegant poness.

THEN I arrived at my friend's house, I was received with great ness, and ushered into a most elemon, where half a dozen elderly men were already assembled to r. At this repast every thing was I upon plate, and from the vast es of the company, who were conly talking of thousands, and tenneds, I was actually beside myself: anticipation of my approaching eur. They were so absorbed in the

the contemplation of their darling view, that they never once confidered there are was a stranger in company, and begate to unfold such things as made me state with surprise and wonder.

One faid he had cleared upwards of five hundred pounds from the purchase of bank-stock, in consequence of a lucky advertisement he had himself caused to be inserted in the daily pers, which had frightened an old Curmudgeon so much at Jonathan's, that he had sold all out under par, and thought himself happy in so doing.

Another observed, that there was an absolute necessity for running the B—n East-Indiaman ashore on the cape of Good Hope, in her passage home, in order to bring about a scheme he had upon a certain moneyed person, who, for a certain reason, should be nameless; by which stroke of sinesse

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 95 he was in hopes to clear a good round fum.

While a third took notice, that these ten thousand pound lotteries were the best calculated things in the world for making a man's fortune. That to his certain knowledge Aaron—, the Jew, had gained an immense sum, by retailing out shares of tickets that had been drawn blanks; when out of an infinite number of halfs, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths, for which he had got a large premium, only one sifty pound prize came up, which he paid upon the instant with great pleafure.

All this time I could not help obferving the features of the company, whose looks were so haggard, that they feemed more like infernal harpies than men: but I soon accounted for this particular, in placing the distortion of their

their visages to their intense application on to business, and the care that attended the getting of money.

While I was reflecting on this circumstance, an old fellow started up with 1 =h great agility, and cried out, 'You talk k of running the B-n East-India-' man on shore, Gentlemen, and it is == 2 cute thought, let me tell you; but a -s ' you are very fensible of the incroach ments of the French upon our American settlements, suppose we shoulddetach a squadron of their men of war to make a descent upon the island of Antigua? - You understand me -Don't you think it might influence fome grand movements in our favour? An advertisement of this naf ture conveyed to the printer of the Whitehall Evening Post, as a piece of very private intelligence come over from Holland, would not fail to take. 'I know a person greatly concerned ٠ in

97

in that island whom we might dupe on this very occasion; and, by G—d, I'll put it in practice.' To this they all affented with great pleasure, and shortly after the company broke up, with intent to meet the same night at Garraway's for farther consultation. My friend now took me into his closet, and began thus:

4 You fee, my dear, what advantages refult from a young man, like you, being introduced to an acquaintance with people of experience. These egentlemen are all my particular friends; they know the world, understand mankind, and, through a course of dear-bought knowledge, are enabled to fland upon the top of the wheel of fortune, and fnatch at every * prospect of advantage with a sure hand: there being not a man of them but is worth half a plumb at • least. — Now my intention is this: when you find the linen business Vol. II. F answer.

80

answer, you can now and then snap
at a lucky brace of scores in the mature of insurance: premiums now run
high, and money will come in like
dirt: and then as opportunities offer,
I will let you into the nature of stockbroking, that so you may act in that
branch also upon occasion. You
know, it is best to have two strings to
one's bow: and as to the finishingstroke a wise, let me alone for that—
I have disposed of you already to the
best advantage; no less than a twenty
thousand pounder I'll affure you, and

the sweetest creature that ever nature

4 fashioned in beauty's mould.*

I was extravagantly delighted with all he faid, but these last words charmed me beyond expression. I fell at his feet in extasses, embraced his knees with violent transport, and thanked heaven a thousand times that had hrown me in the way of so worthy a man: begging, that as he had acted so gracious

99

racious a part already in relieving me rom all dependance on my guardian. ie would continue his care in the diection of my future conduct, and allow ne to call him henceforth by the enlearing name of uncle. Having faid his, I rose up, my eyes swimming in ears, and presenting my ring which and cost me ten guineas, forced him, ifter a deal of persuasion, to accept of hat trifle as a fmall mark of my unsounded gratitude for such excessive zoodness. In a word, I was so taken with these instances of his attachnent, that, as foon as I took my leave of him, I went into Cheapside, and bought a very fine brilliant at twenty guineas, as a present to his wife, which found means to compliment her with that very night, under the most solemn promise to keep it an inviolable secret, for some time, from my dear friend her husband.

In a few days I had made fuch quick work in disposing of my moveables,

F 2 that

that I took possession of my new lodgings, and began to fancy myself the happiest man in England.

In a short time I had a fine parcel of Scotch linens, of the best manufacture, placed in my warehouse, to the value of five hundred pounds, and I began to frequent the Change with a good grace, where my kind uncle took care to furnish me with customers enough, and in three weeks time I had disposed of my whole cargo for ready money to a very good account.

This beginning charmed me; I hugged myself a thousand times on my happiness in having a friend so experienced as my uncle was; and acquainted him, that I intended to lay in a fresh stock to the extent of eight hundred pounds. He was pleased to commend this my resolution, which he said was very commendable in a young beginner; took notice, there was nothing like vigour in the prosecution of any one

one scheme, in order to bring it to bear the more effectually; and gave me a detail of my correspondents in the north, to whom I wrote, for the first time, in the strain of a man perfectly acquainted with the nature of business.

While I was waiting the return of my fecond cargo, my uncle came in one day and told me, that now I had a prospect to be employed between whiles, for that he had taken the opportunity of a ship that was to be infured, to befpeak me as one of the subscribers: that she was only going to Holland, and the whole fum no more than five hundred pounds, one hundred of which I might put in for, as the other four were filled up; and that my share of the premium would be all in my own pocket, there not being the least risque or danger whatsoever. I affented to this motion with vast pleafure, and affigned over one hundred pounds bank-flock as a fecurity, till my credit should be a little more established. F 2

ned, when he observed, there wo no occasion for such a step; and in rionth's time I had the pleasure to caive advice, that the veffel was farely ived in port, which relieved me from lome anxiety on that account.

By this time my fecond cargoe was arrived, which I disposed of in like manner as the former; and now, indeed, I began to entertain very great thoughts of myfelf, and looked back with contempt on my former course of life, which I was fully convinced would have brought me to ruin in a short time: whereas now, thought I, I am in a fettled way, have the character of a thriving trader, and by and by shall experience to a reality the farther promifes of my good friend in regard to the lady unknown. Let me see. If this comes to bear, I will trade to the Levant, have a confiderable correspondence up the Straits, and be deeply engaged in our Jamaica and Virginia

colonies: Spain, Holland, South-Carolina. Turky, and feveral other places, will open their ports to overwhelm me with their Rores: in return for which I will fend there fuch commutativing as theil not fail to clear me of three or four handred per cent. I will then throw off business: for, why should a man make a flave of himfelf, fince all flesh is grass, and mortality but a span. No, no; I zarn none of those unconsciousble animals neither. In this case I will shew myself a reasonable creature, and exhibit such a piece of felf-denial as shall be worthy the imitation of the whole mercantile world. Some few huadred thousand pounds shall do my business, and I will fit down with a contented mind under all the advantages of grandeur, riches, and pomp, with the new purchased title of Sir Hamilton Murray, Knight and Baronet, for which I will give the trifle of a few thousand pounds.

I had

blished, when he observed, there would be no occasion for such a step; and in a month's time I had the pleasure to receive advice, that the vessel was safely arrived in port, which relieved me from some anxiety on that account.

By this time my fecond cargoe was arrived, which I disposed of in like manner as the former; and now, indeed, I began to entertain very great thoughts of myfelf, and looked back with contempt on my former course of life, which I was fully convinced would have brought me to ruin in a short time: whereas now, thought I, I am in a fettled way, have the character of a thriving trader, and by and by shall experience to a reality the farther promises of my good friend in regard to the lady unknown.—Let me fee.— If this comes to bear, I will trade to the Levant, have a confiderable correspondence up the Straits, and be deeply engaged in our Jamaica and Virginia colo-

colonies. Spain, Holland, South-Carolina, Turky, and several other places. will open their ports to overwhelm me with their Rores: in return for which I will fend them such commodities as shall not fail to clear me of three or four hundred per cent. I will then throw off business: for, why should a man make a flave of himfelf, fince all flesh is grass, and mortality but a fpan. No, no; I am none of those unconscionable animals neither. In this case I will shew myself a reasonable creature, and exhibit such a piece of felf-denial as shall be worthy the imitation of the whole mercantile world. Some few hundred thousand pounds shall do my business, and I will fit down with a contented mind under all the advantages of grandeur, riches, and pomp, with the new purchased title of Sir Hamilton Murray, Knight and Baronet, for which I will give the trifle of a few thousand pounds.

4 I had

I had now entered into the spirit of co business with vigour, and had got up feveral returns of linen from Scotland which I was hitherto fo lucky as to fell site for ready money, and had contracted = number of very good acquaintances was well known upon Change, especially the Scotch walk, where I cut no inconsiderable figure; when my frience in gave me to understand, that unless I chose to give credit, I should find my dealings confined to a very narrow compass; but by so doing, I could enhance the price of my goods considerably, and in case of an emergency. get my bills discounted by any banker in Lombard street, who would be glad to supply me on these occasions, as i was their bread. Although my mind was naturally averse to paper-money in general, which I could never prevail upon myself to look upon in the light of good cash; yet I thought his reasons carried weight with them, and I told him, provided my customers were what

Is called good men, or men of subflance, I was in no mind to lose a good offer for the trisling matter of a threemonths credit, or so. This answer heapproved of greatly, he said, and obferved to me, that paper-credit was the great support of the nation at this very functure.

It was not long after this, that a very flashy young fellow came into my warehouse, and bargained for two hundred pounds worth of very fine Scotcha Hollands, which he bid me make up against he should send his porter for them, and which he would shortly do, provided I approved of his terms. 'You must know, Sir,' said he, 'that my name is Williams, and I have the honour to be acquainted with most egentlemen upon Change: but hearing, Sir, of the infinite reputation 'your goods have to all others in the way of a foreign market, being intimately acquainted with your good F 5 friend:

- friend Mr. ____, I have thought proper to favour you in this distinction guishing manner, by purchasing your
- Inen at a fix months credit.

I told him, I was vastly indebted to him for this peculiar instance of his regard; that I did not at all question] his acquaintance with people of the f First rank in the business; but, as he wa-**S** 2 stranger to me, I should be glad if he could get somebody whom I knew to join in the note, as I had immediate occasion for money, and could then page 18 it as current cash.

By all means, my dear Sir,' replied the young gentleman, with a reading that pleased me, as I was under some fears of having lost his custom by my proposal; 'I approve vastly of your 'prudent foresight. Such exquisite pre-

- caution in fo young a man charms
- * me, and you cannot be too much upon
- 'your guard in affairs of this kind:

there

there are numbers of sharpers in this 'city, who make it their practice to ensnare the ignorant and unwary. 'But, Sir, I hope a farther acquaint-"ance with my circumstances and character will convince you that I am not of that number. In the mean time let the goods rest where they 'are, and do you be so kind as to call on me to-morrow morning at my house - here is my direction - and, 'I doubt not, we shall transact this affair to our mutual fatisfaction. Sir, I wish you a multiplicity of hap-'piness, and am, Sir, your very much 'obedient.' So faying, he went off in great state, leaving me prepossessed not a little in his favour, and in twenty minds to call him back again to take the goods on his own terms, fo much had his superabundant politeness gained upon me.

CHAP. VIII.

According to appointment, I attended any customer at his own house.

Am received in a very handsome manner.—A friend of his arrives who discounts my bills with great pleasure.—He runs sive hundres are pounds in my debt.—Puts me of off with trisling evasions, till I experience a new system of roguery.—My uncle turns out a most consummate willain.

call at the house of my new customer, according to direction, and uponssending up my name, was ushered into a very grand parlour, where he soon after waited upon me in a rich brocaded night-gown and Morocco slippers. Notwithstanding I had breakfasted, he insisted on my drinking a dish of chocolate with such civility of argument, that I look-

I looked upon him as the best bred man in the Universe, and was about to frame some excuse for my putting him to all this trouble for such a trisle, but still some fresh instance of his good humour and politeness prevented me, and I stood contemplating his persections in silent wonder.

Having finished this repast to our mutual satisfaction, he whispered a young lad, who immediately went out, and in a few minutes returned again, accompanied by an elderly gentleman whom my friend saluted in these words: Your servant, Mr. Moses, I am glad to see you, and the more so (you must excuse my freedom) as I shall have occasion to infringe upon your friendship at this juncture.

O, Sir,' cried the new comer, 'you are extremely welcome: command my fervices in any respect, at all times and at all seasons, and you shall find me 'ready

fready to obey your commands on the least emergency. If it is in the way of cash, now, I can suit you to a hair, as I have been at my banker's for seven hundred pounds but this minute, and was on my way home, when your servant said you wanted to speak with me.'

'Indeed!' fays my customer with an air of pleafing aftonishment, 'can it be possible? was ever any thing so 'lucky as this occurrence! Why, this is actually now the oddest thing in ' nature! My stars seem more than ordinary kind to-day: first, to honour " me with the company of this young gentleman, for whom, you must know, Mr. Mofes, I have conceived a most ' fingular efteem; and then, to crown all, to fend you in the way, at a time when I could hardly flatter myfelf with that happiness, as Thursday is com-' monly your busiest day - You must know then, my dear friend, that it

is the article of money I stand most in need of. I have a trisling affair with this young gentleman, and as we are as yet but strangers, he wants to have ready money directly, which I greatly commend him for. Can you oblige me in that article? and do you think yourself safe enough to difcount my bills?

At this question the stranger assumed. a most passionate surprise, pronouncing the words "discount your bills!" with a ftrong emphasis; and, after having observed, that Mr. Williams's bills were as good as the bank of England, lugged out a huge leathern bag from his pocket, and demanded the fum. Only two hundred pounds, Sir,' replied his friend, 'and I shall take care to return the favour most kindly." On which the new comer, after feveral ejaculations of 'discount yourbills! Mr. Williams, do I think myfelf fafe to discount your bills? I 'fhou'dn't 2

' fhou'dn't have thought of fuch a question as this, truly, had I thought 'till doomfday.' He then told me out the money directly, deducting bankers interest; and at going away, told his friend, that he should actually expect his company the next week, detached from all business, to spend a few days with him at his feat near West-Wycomb in Bucks, where he should have occafion for his advice in planning out some interesting alterations in his wilderness, particularly a curious cold bath after the Roman fashion, and a repeating sundial upon the principles of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophy.

Hearing all these grand things, I thought I had committed a most unpardonable crime, to call the honour of so fine a gentleman in question; and began to make some apologies accordingly, but he would not hear a word more upon that subject, and stopped me short with, 'No more of that, my dear Sir, 'I do

I do befeech you. Why, I should just have acted in the same manner myself, and I approve your precaution greatly; it is a good sign, and proves you to be a man of business. I shall send my porter for the goods in some sive or six days, and do myself the honour to call upon you very soon.

I now went home in great spirits, and finding my uncle in the way, related the transactions of the morning, and shewed him the money; at the sight of which he testified much pleasure, and observed there was nothing like the ready. 'But now,' says he, 'you need be under no farther appreshensions as to that quarter, for the gentleman really bears a very good character.'

In about fix weeks I was paid another visit from the same young gentleman, who very obligingly told me, that he had disposed of his last purchase

to fo good account, that he was refolved to venture a fecond time, but that they must come reasonable, as he intended to lay out one hundred pounds ready money. I was very glad to hear of this piece of intelligence, and refolving not to be out-done in generofity, let him have that value not much above prime coft, for which I received cash down upon the nail. I thought now there was no farther reason for suspicion, and accordingly told him at parting, that if at any time he should have occasion for any thing in my way, his bill was bank-stock, and I should be extremely obliged for his favours.

In consequence of this intimation, he foon after gave me to understand, that he had then the greatest opportunity in the world to dispose of a parcel of Scotch Hollands to the amount of sive hundred pounds; but that he should be obliged to let slip the occasion, as he was at that juncture really out of cash, having

having been lately put to great disbursements in repairing a small estate which had been lest him by a relation on Blackheath. Glad of this opportunity to convince him of my sincere dependance on his honour, I told him, he need give himself no farther trouble upon that score, as I could just then supply him with the desired quantity; and as to ready money, it was a matter of indifference to me, as his note was as good to me as cash.

Abundance of compliments passed now on this occasion; the epithets of honour, generosity, disinterested attachment, and integrity, were bandied about like the shuttle of a weaver's loom, and in the end he condescended to honour me with this great instance of his esteem, by taking to the value of five hundred pounds in the very choicest assortments I had, for which only a few lines upon paper signed by him, appeared so high an equivalent to me, that it kept my spirits

fpirits in a flate of rapturous exaltation for three days after.

Not long after this, I happened to have a fudden demand for fome money, and taking my precious note in my pocket, I went to the old gentleman, who had fo readily discounted my first note, with a defire to favour me in the like manner a fecond time, as it would then oblige me excessively. He received me with abundance of easy politeness; observed, he had paid away eighteen hundred pounds not three hours before, and was actually then empty-handed; but begged me to call in five days, and he should then be in a condition w This I did not supply my occasions. fail to do, but he was still out of cash; and in short, after a whole fortnight's attendance, I found myself as nigh the Our d-n'd compoint as ever. merce with France and Holland, he said, had drained the nation fo, that, for his part, money was so scarce, he believed

thad fled the kingdom: and we might thank our vicinity to the isle of Man as one cause of this unaccountable carcity of current coin; for what with he treasonous practices of the Jews in lipping and coining, and the illicit procedings of out-lawed smugglers, an inglish guinea would soon become as reat a rarity as constancy in a whore, r universal charity in a papist; and oncluded with telling me, he had not hen twenty pieces in his hands.

Having received this answer from ny gentleman of West-Wycomb in conitatu Bucks, I told him, I was extremely forry I had given him and myself so nuch unnecessary trouble, and took my eave, resolving within myself to apply o a banker for the purpose, and this did regularly from one end of Lomzard-street to another, but none of them them the man. He might be a person of some consideration, for what they they of the matter, but in these cases abso-

one of their clerks in particular observed with a shrug, that he was no stranger to the hand-writing, but could not say that ever he had the honour to advance any money either to the principal, or on his account; 'though,' continued he, 'we frequently find people coming here with such things as these; but the mis'fortune of it is, the gentleman himself is hardly ever to be found beyond the purlieus of Fleet-ditch.'

I had nothing to do now but to attend patiently the expiration of the date, which was no fooner come than I waited upon the gentleman in person, who received me in a very polite manner, and desired me to do him the favour to call again in eight days, when he would not fail to be prepared for me. This I did not forget to do, when "call again" was still the answer; and after three weeks dallying, I had as little appearance of being re-imbursed as ever. I acquaint-

HAMILTON MURRAY. 119

unted my uncle with this unactable proceeding, who advised me est him forthwith. But I was extly unwilling to affront a gentle-in that manner, and withstood his e a whole month; when at the state time, not perceiving myself nearer my money, I thought I d be wanting to my own interest, did not endeavour to recover my erty at any rate, and so was conted to take out a writ, but accanied the bailiss to prevent their ing things to an extremity.

hen we entered the shop, he took otice of my attendants, otherwise by saluting us all three in so cours a manner, that it wrung me to teart to be forced to put in pracan action that I thought quite instent with the character of a man onour to make use of towards his d. In order to avoid this as much stible, I began to expatiate on the length

length of time his bill had remained unpaid fince the date was expired; took notice of the infinite prejudice an omission of that nature must be to a trading man, whose fole credit depended on a quick circulation of money; and observed, that I was then come to demand a categorical answer, and in case of farther equivocations, to let the law take its course, the better to establish my own emolument. fected great surprise at this usage, which he said was actually very ungented treatment; and even asked me in some heat, if I wanted him to go upon the highway for my paultry trifle; adding, I had better by half make myself easy, for that was not the way to go to work he could affure me.

This manner of delivery I thought for unfuitable to my generous forbearance, and the present situation of affairs between us, that I took fire in my turn, and desired the officers to do their duty;

but

out I was not a little confounded, when upon his producing a kind of printed certificate, they gave me to understand, they had nothing to do with the gentleman, as he was then within the liberties of the Fleet, and had been a prisoner in Ludgate for some time.

In a transport of raging madness I went home to acquaint my uncle with the particulars of this melancholy affair, who, poor gentleman, was as much dejected at it as I could be, every now and then crying out in a tone of inexpressible astonishment, 'Good God! Mr. Williams in trouble! Poor man! • His integrity has undone him. ftars, who would have thought it!' Then lifting up his hands and eyes, "Heavens!' faid he, 'if fuch virtue. fuch exalted honefty and candour meet with this wayward fate, what must the generality of mankind expect in the long run! For my part, I begin to be weary of the world; and two or Vol. II. 6 three

- three more fuch inftances of this na-
- ture will make me retire from bufi-

" ness in good earnest."

When he had paid this tribute of affection to the distresses of his afflicted friend, he endeavoured to reason me into a state of refignation to my fate, by recounting the many loffes and croffes he himself had met with in the course of his dealings, but observed, that these things did not always happen, as God forbid they should; and there was still a prospect of a dividend. With this meagre confolation I was obliged to be content, and by the advice of my uncle turned my mind intirely to business with intent to remedy so fatal an inconvenience as foon as possible. ingly I dealt largely in infurances, not only of ships, but also of private goods, and by the returns I received, and fuccess I met with, had no reason to complain that my industry was unrewarded.

In this manner I went on, when one day my uncle brought me word, that I might make a good round fum by joining in with some men of established credit in the insurance of a new ship bound to Virginia; that my share would amount to five hundred pounds; which, as there would be no present exaction of cash, would be a means of putting a good fum in my pocket; and then asked me what I thought. I told him, that I would be wholly regulated by his advice in this, as in every other article; and gave my confent to his proposal with great readiness. lunacy itself cannot display the ravings of my foul, when about a month after, he gave me to understand, that the ship had been run ashore upon the coast of Ireland, and stove in a thousand pieces. At this woeful intelligence the faculties of my understanding relaxed apace. I began to fee ten thousand horrible phantoms of want, ruin, beggary and deftruction, present themselves to my

G 2 gloomy gloomy

gloomy imagination in alternate vicifitudes, and all my gay delufions of joys, honours, riches, and pomp, depart as a shadow, and vanish like smoke.

Upon inquiring into the particulars of this shipwreck, we found it but to true, tho' not without suspicion of for play in the captain, as it happened in place quite clear of bad ground, and is a night that was none of the most boisterous; but as this scheme had been conducted with too much policy to bein danger of a discovery, at least for that time, we were obliged to difburfe the whole infurance, which amounted to a very confiderable fum, there being feveral concerned in the subscription. Though I afterwards discovered, that the captain had effected this notable exploit, and blinded the whole crew by clapping a large piece of iron privately in the binnacle, which had drawn the compais many points northward of its natural position, by which means, while the

the ship's company thought they were steering away due west to clear the land's end, their true course, they were led up into St. George's channel, and being too thick weather to find out the plot by an observation, he had managed his cards so slily as to run her ashore without endangering their lives near Wexford.

This fatal loss determined me to lay aside all farther traffick of any fort in which I had been all along fo unfuccessful, not a little grieved, that, since I must be ruined, it had not been in my former pleasurable way, rather than by the machinations of a fet of men. who were a difgrace to humanity; for that my kind, indulgent, and adopted uncle was a most infernal villain, I had foon reason to experience, when one day I found the following extraordinary epiftle, which he accidentally dropt in pulling out his handkerchief, and G a which

which I perceived he had received from my guardian's fon in Scotland.

'DEAR SIR,

Am extravagantly glad to hear that your views, in regard to your linentrader Murray, have been crowned with the success which seldom fails to attend any well concerted scheme. Mr. Williams acted the Fleet-merchant to admiration, and the article of difcounting his first bill took effectually, But this last stroke to dispose of the 6 Charming Peggy to fo good account ' transports me. She was but a rotten hulk at best; and I am rejoyced that the affair proceeded with fuch excellent 4 precaution. My poor father is very 4 much indisposed of late, and, what is fomething extraordinary, begins to ' feel some qualms of conscience with respect to the circumstance in hand. ' He raves incessantly of accounts, ba-'lances,

lances, and his last home; and if he is fuffered to remain long in this way of thinking, I am under some apprehenfions he will be so foolish as to make the puppy a full restitution: tho' rather than he should disgrace us all by an action of that nature, I will at all events have him brought in as a lunatick, though he is my parent: however, for his own ease and all our quiet, I could wish he was well with his fathers. I am, in conjunction with your good friend Dr. R---l, endeavouring all I can to convince him, that these trifling symptoms of lowness are nothing else but the natural effects of a violent relaxation of i nerves, brought on by a bodily weakness and infirmity. He bites at this plaufible ftory, and I am in hopes his • folly will proceed no farther. In expectation of hearing from you foon 'as being fafely arrived the other fide of the water. I remain

'Yours.'

At the reading this infernal letter my foul was stupified with horror. Though it was not figned with his name, I nevertheless knew it at first fight to proceed from my uncle's fon in Scotland, and the old fellow's fears of a future reckoning afforded me but a very paultry comfort, fince, even was he disposed to do me justice, this unnatural villain would take care to frustrate his intentions. I likewise found, to my infinite confusion, that the stock-broker, and this limb of the law, had been concerned together in an old crazy ship which on this occasion they had trumped up with new paintings, and an altered name, in order to insure her at a high price, and then run her on shore with design. But what grieved me most of all was, that the stock-broker perfuaded me to make up matters with the young fellow of Fleet-street, and give him a clear discharge for a mere trifle, on the supposition that something was better

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 129 better than nothing; and what signified oppressing a miserable man.

I was reflecting on these things with grief, anger, aftonishment, and despair, when one of the stock-broker's daughters, a young girl of nine years of age, came hastily into the room, and snatched the letter out of my hand, which she ran off with before I had time to recollect myself so far as to entertain the least thought to regain it. When I had recovered myself from the confufion this action had thrown me into, I easily conjectured, that upon missing it they had fallen upon this method to get it back again, for I was in too much agitation during the perusal to observe who was near me.

Struck with this glaring inftance of audacity, I fought my infernal uncle out with great diligence, in order to come to an explanation with regard to his unprecedented behaviour; but was furprised to G 5 find



claring his vilwas acquainted
were not fo mus
ligence, as I ha
be, by their a
character for a
lain had been lo
his late disappea
reason, having I
to be deeply con
with some Rotte
the northern ma

CHAP. IX.

I prevent a young woman from fuicide.—Carry her home to my lodgings, and make an interesting discovery.

T was not long after this melancholy reduction of my fortune, when one night, pretty late, taking a turn in King's-bench walks, Middle-Temple, I spied a young woman a little before me, meanly habited, whom I imagined to be a girl of the town. As I had suffered sufficiently by that species of women already, I was passing on without taking any farther notice of her, when she struck her breast in great agony, and assuming an accent of melancholy despair, pronounced these lines with a voice interrupted with sobs;

- " Eternity, without a shore,
- "Where ever fiery billows roar!"

Seeing

Seeing her in this mood. I was at a loss to diftinguish, whether it was all grimace, in order to move my pity and compatition, a thing very frequent with girls of the town; or the refult of thought, occasioned by reflecting on her wicked life, and prefent mifery. But when I observed her to move on towards the river in the utmost distraction, I began to fancy the affair was much more ferious than at first I had imagined. On this I resolved to watch her motions, and if I found the intended to make any attempt upon her life, I would then prevent her rash defign, endeavour to reason her into a more religious way of thinking, and afford her all the affiftance in my power.

By this time she had got up close to the wall that fronts the river, which she altended with extraordinary commotion, and gazing upon the moon, which then displayed a faint lustre through the excelleg clouds, began a short prayer,

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 133 or foliloquy, at the end of which she broke out in this manner:

"And if thou wilt, O my Creator! graciously vouchsafe to lend a pitying ear to the last prayer of a dying finner, forgive, O! forgive the dear youth that first seduced my virgin heart to sin, and let him never hear of the wretched sate of his poor Sukey, lest his generous heart be torn with anguish, and in an agony of despair, he follow me to my long home."

As she spoke these last words, she shung herself off the wall, and had I not on the instant laid hold on the backpart of her garments and stopped her fall, she would certainly have dashed her brains out against a lighter just underneath, which, in the agony of her soul, she never once perceived, as also that it was then low water.

Having effected this charitable action, I turned to her, and began to talk to her in a strain, that I imagined suitable to the solemnity of the occasion; for the thoughts that a fellow-creature should be drove to that distress, as to attempt her own life, had wrought a strange effect on me.

" What bold wretch art thou,' faid I, that thus dares to provoke the vengeance of an almighty and incenfed Being, by quitting this thy station, be-' fore he, in his infinite wisdom, has 'thought proper to call thee hence? ' Had it not been his great mercy that ' fent me to prevent thy everlasting ' ruin, thou hadst perhaps, by this time, been beyond a mortal existence, and experiencing, to thine eternal horror, ' what it is to commit an action, for which there can be no hope of pardon, as the deed itself exempts thee from all repentance. — What! to ' presume to rush into the presence of ' the

the Almighty with all thy fins about

thee, before whom the very heavens

are not holy, and the angels them-

felves are unclean! God, of his infi-

* nite mercy, defend us from it! *

Perceiving these words had their due effect, I went on: 'But come, my 'child, chear up! thou mayst now 'see he has not altogether forsaken 'thee, since he has not permitted thee 'to accomplish thy detestable purpose. 'Follow me! and I will endeavour to 'provide for you for the future.' She did so with trembling and fear, blessing God all the way, who had sent me to her assistance, at a time when her better reason was overpowered by afflictions too hard for sless and so were safely and blood to bear.

When I got her into my chambers, I made her drink a few glasses of wine, and to my great joy perceived she recovered her spirits apace, and, setting aside her present wretched attire and meagre

meagre looks, the had still the remains of a very agreeable person, and was withal extremely young.

As upon a little more conversation, I thought her accent bordered north of the Tweed, I took occasion to inquire from what part of Scotland she came, but she had no sooner mentioned F—r—n, than I found myself strangely apitated.

I examined her face with the most eager attention; and, notwithstanding the reachest alteration her mistortunes had occasioned, soon recollected, in the person of my companion, the very individual features of my first love Sukey. At this interesting discovery, my soul was overpowered with sloods of joy and serrow: joy at thus unexpectedly meeting with the woman I had so dearly loved; and sorrow at seeing her in such wretched and melancholy circumstances.

"And art thou then,' faid I, hugging her poor afflicted breaft to my bosom, art thou then, my dear, my long for lost Sukey, whose beauteous eyes first taught me to love, whose endearing conversation first filled my youthful—heart with rapture, who so often led me on to taste the sweets of beauty, and experience the joys of paradise? And can I see thee thus, and know myself the wretched cause of all, without being overwhelmed with tor-rents of anguish, and filled with the remorse of a detestable murderer?"

The poor girl, who little imagined my discovery of her would be accompanied with such tenderness, was unable to conceal her emotions on this occasion. She fell at my feet, and embracing my knees with transport, "For- bear, my dear Hamilton," cried she, thus to load a wretch with your kind- ness, who has rendered herself un- worthy of your least regard: nor accuse

" accuse yourself of being the cause of that ruin, which my own deviation from the paths of virtue has plunged me into.— Alas! had I nothing but my first transgression to account for I should not deserve this compassion; in what light then can you view me, when I must inform you, that your tenderness is lavished upon a vile and most forlern prostitute?"—Here she stopt. Grief, shame and remorse prevented farther utterance; and had not a kindly shood of tears found a passage at her eyes, she certainly would have fainted.

Though these words shocked me greatly, yet I could not help seeling a renewal of all my former affection for her; my soul was melted into pity at her distressful condition, and, in the consideration that her love to me had been the cause of her slying her country, and all her subsequent afflictions, I blessed the time that put it in my power

to make her a reparation for the miferies the had undergone. Full of this pleasing thought, I kindly wiped off the tears that copioufly distilled from her forrowful eyes, and preffing her to my bosom, "Have these lovely breasts," cried I, "whose rising dawn once se charmed my foul to extafy, and these delicate arms, which have many a 44 time encircled me in the folds of love. se become a pillow for pollution, and 66 as wretched incentives to aged luft? 46 Shall these lovely hands, which I " have so often kissed with transport, be ** longer employed in receiving the ** price of profitution? No, my dearest "life, my foul's delight, and pleasure of my eyes, it must not be. Sooner 44 shall heaven forget to reward its voes taries, while it crowns the wicked 44 with the choicest gifts of immorta-44 fity, than my Sukey shall longer be 46 a reproach to her fex, or a baneful object to the severest virtue. Speak, "thou lovely partner, of my priftine " plea-

" pleasures, canst thou forgive the man who has been the author of this thy ruin, who has plunged thee into such intolerable scenes of woe? and I will in return for such unmerited good-ness, make thee all the recompence in my power, by sharing my person and fortune with thee to the uttermost. Yes, I am both able and willing to alleviate thy distress; you shall still be the same kind, generous, distinct field girl in my eye as ever; and when I forget the least of these my promises, may heaven forsake me as the vilest of monsters."

Having thus given vent to the feelings of my foul, she fell at my feet, and clasping my knees with extasy, "O! "why will you, my dear Sir,' cried she, "persist to accuse yourself with being the cause of that distress which my own follies have involved me? you are extravagantly kind in thus fympathizing with my deplorable situation:

"tuation: but if you will be so good as
"to relieve me from this impending
"ruin, and these scenes of destruction,
"which are obnoxious to my soul, I
"will, by my future life, endeavour to
"wipe away the stains of my ill-spent
"time, and by waiting upon you in the
"character of a most lowly slave, make
"all the recompence in my power for
"this unparalleled goodness to the
"meanest of wretches."

She then told me, that she had no sooner entered the room than she knew me, and had taken the opportunity of my asking her what country - woman she was, to mention the very place which she thought might awaken my remembrance of her, and that it was with the utmost joy she found I did not despise or loath her upon a discovery.

Inexpressible was the pleasure I conceived at thus meeting with the only woman

woman in the world I had ever loved; but ten times more so at finding her, after all she had undergone, very little tainted with the vices of her accursed profession; so that, being of a very anticipating imagination, I began to chalk out prospects of future happiness in her company, the very idea of which dilated my soul with extasy.

As this encounter had dispelled all thoughts of sleep, I begged her to relate the occurrences of her life since our parting, on which she gave me the following account.



CHAP. X.

The Story of Mils Sukey Patterson.

プOU may remember, my dear Hamilton, faid she, that a little bewe you left F-n, one of the taids had fomehow discovered our corspondence; the quarrel you had with er that morning of your elopement, ad incensed her beyond all bounds of Estraint, so that you were no sooner tiffing, than the ran to my uncle, and scovered her knowledge of our intiracy, taking care to interlard her harttion with many aggravating circumances, which her own malicious fancy afily suggested on the occasion. This has enough to let a man of his temper nad. Accordingly he was enraged beond bounds at the bare thoughts of ach an indignity offered to a branch of is family; and more especially when

fhe

fhe informed him, that the late disafters he had met with, were owing to you, and not to supernatural causes, as he had hitherto imagined.

Incensed beyond measure at this discovery, he slew all over the house with the rage of a Bedlamite in search of me and happy was it for me at that juncture, that I was not at home, but had gone over the way to farmer Johnson's, to spend the evening with his daughter Polly.

It was not long before I was thoroughly acquainted with the particulars of my wretched fituation: for my revengeful rival, for fuch I afterwards discovered her to be, having found out where I was gone to, came over, and without mentioning a word of the matter, told me that my aunt wanted me immediately to make up fome linen in all haste against the next day. But I had no fooner

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 145 coner entered within doors, than my uncle faluted me with these words:

Well, my pretty little modesty, where's your paramour? I'll warrant vou'll be in a fad taking when you hear he's gone off, and left you, for a brazen flut as you are, to account to the parish for your notable exploits. But, you fcandalous huffey, you shan't stay another hour under my roof: no, not if the god Plutus should intercede for your residence, and bribe me to a compliance in a shower of gold. Henceforth my hospitable doors shall rather be open to the midnight-murderer, than afford a shelter to one who has thus meanly truckled to the · lascivious delusions of a beardless boy, and made a facrifice of that honour to his wanton inclinations, which ought to have been the more inviolably preserved, as you had the immense happiness of being allied to the antient race of F-b-s, a family that in Vol. II. H

- all the annals of history have never
- once been found to deviate from the
- · strictest principles of virtue for a thou-
- fand centuries. But it is now gone
- for ever, and all my future prospects
- in regard to thee are vanished. Yes,
- my resolution is fixt as fate, and my.
- spurpose more immoveable than the
- ' pillars of Hercules.
 - · Chain'd on a barren rock, a thousand kness
 - "Ten thousand years imploring, shou'dn't move
 - My steady, fixt, and unrelenting foul,
 - · To look which way you was.'

Having uttered this string of incoherencies in the stile of an incensed pedant, he bid me be gone instantly;

- 'For if,' faid he, 'another hour your
- ' loathed carcase should be found to
- harbour within the portal of my gates,
- 'I will annihilate the nothingness of
- 'your foul's body, and give your pol-
- · luted coarse as a prey to the birds of
- "he aven to feed one"

He had no sooner expressed himself in this extravagant manner, than he went out in great fury, and left me so shocked at his barbarous treatment, that, together with the news of your still more barbarously leaving me, the pains of child-birth seized me, and his eyes and ears were soon saluted with a living testimony of my disgrace and shame.

This unwelcome fight overpowered his reason intirely: he threw himself about the room in the most frantick attitudes of lunacy; and had not my good aunt interposed, by representing the wickedness of exposing a person in my condition to the cold air, and the reflections that such a piece of cruelty would wound his reputation in case of my dying abroad, he would actually have turned both me and the new born babe out of doors, as victims to his barbarous resentment.

H 2 After

After this he would never allow me to fit with him at his table, as I had heresofore done, or even to come into his prefence; and I was no fooner in a condition to go abroad, than he feat me notice to prepare to make an attonement for my crimes by doing public penance at church the next Sunday in fack-cloth, after which he would fend me and my child both down to my friends in the north, and rid his eyes from encountering to horrid a monfter. But as this was a circumstance I was Er no means disposed to comply with I even resolved to quit his house intirely, and trust myself to the direction of Providence, rather than longer be subfeeted to the infulting taunts of the fa-

Accordingly I got myself in readiness; and after taking a tender leave of my poor child, whom my aunt, from a principle of humanity, promised to provide for, I bundled up the few clothes

clothes and little stock of money I had, ind fet out the same night with the carrier for Edinburgh. Here I stayed with an acquaintance for some time, and made all possible inquiry concerning you; and after three weeks fearch, I had the melancholy tidings that you was gone off to sea, and would not rerurn for a long season. Strangely disspirited at this intelligence, and finding mv friend's affections fo gradually cool, in proportion as my money decreased, I took a resolution, before my little all should be expended, to go off to London, where I was in hopes of getting into some good family; and accordingly I embarked foon after in a falmon-floop for that capital.

We had hardly got clear of the bar, before the wind, hitherto favourable, turned quite against us, and after some days extreme hazard of all our lives, we at last made shift to get into Newcastle, with the loss of what the sailors H 2 call

call the bowsprit. For my own part, during this scene of distraction, and the extreme sickness I was afflicted with all the time, I verily fancied, that my folly in leaving my country, friends, and my dear child, had subjected the whole crew to this disaster; and was almost ready to faint at the thoughts of what might still happen before we reached London.

We stayed eight days at Newcastle, in hopes of meeting with a fair wind; during which time I had the good fortune to get acquainted with a country-woman of ours, who told me that a Scotch Lord and his family were then in the town, and intended to set out for London in a few days in their own coaches; that one of the maid-servants was taken ill by the way, and she would endeavour to get me into her place, if in case she was not able to proceed with them.

I was wonderfully rejoiced at these agreeable tidings, and begged her to intercede with some of the family for my admittance. And this she did so effectually, representing my youth and qualifications in the most prevailing manner, that the lady desired to see me, and was so taken with me at the first interview, that I was forthwith hired into her service, in quality of waiting-maid to the young miss her daughter.

In a few days we set out on the remainder of our journey; when, instead of being pent up in a little paultry vessel in the winter-season, and tortured with a deadly sickness, I had the pleasure of riding all the way in a coach; of being provided for with a place to my heart's content; and of every day receiving fresh tokens of my good lady's favour and approbation.

Upon our arrival here in London, the family went to live in his lordship's H 4 house

house in Pall-mall; and here it was I first began to enjoy myself, since my leaving Scotland; and had not your idea, together with that of my dear child, about whose health and welfare I was extremely anxious, now and then intervened to obstruct my happiness, I should scarce have had a single wish unsatisfied.

The thought of my fon still preffing upon my mind, I resolved to delay no longer the eager desire I had to be satisfied in that particular; and accordingly I wrote a most moving letter to my uncle, setting forth my unseigned penitence for being the occasion of so much grief to so kind and indulgent a parent, as he had till then been towards me; my motives for leaving his family and my country, since I could no longer hope to find savour in his eyes; and concluded my letter by begging in the most pathetic expressions I was mistress

tress of, to be favoured with a line from him about the health of my dear son; at the same time informing him, that I was settled in the family of Lord B—n in London, and entreating him to accept the sum of five guineas, which I had saved since I had been here, towards the expence he had been at in the maintenance of my child.

This I thought would be extremely acceptable, and pave the way to our future reconciliation; as you know, that, notwithstanding all his pride, he is very covetous. But whether I had reason to flatter myself in my conjectures, will be seen by this letter which he sent me soon after.

Saying this, she put a letter into my hand, and I read as follows:

Poor

· Poor DELUDED GIRL,

* FOR I will not honour one who has so superlatively injured me, by the friendly name of niece. This will acquaint you, that I have received yours last week, and cannot help admiring your audacity in addressing me with your scrawl, after what has happened.

Canst thou think, vain wretch, that
a man of my character and sunction, and a F—b—s too, will ever
deviate in the most minute circums
thance from his pristine resolves? that
he should ever more favour a monster
with his esteem who has by her crimes
reduced herself to a level with the
vilest of brutes? No, sconer shall the
furly pilot Charon forget to wast the
souls of the departed over the silent
waves of the infernal river Styx, or
the fatal sisters to close their scissars
in dividing the ties of mortality, than

of HAMISTON MURRAY. 355

- 'I will ever more entertain a thought
- of recollecting fuch a wretch but with
- the most abhorred ideas.
 - As to the fruit of your libidinous
- folicings, he is now well; and I have
- begun to imbibe some cogitation of
- e preventing, by castration, the extreme
- devastation he may, by the force of
- his titillation, commit upon the fe
 - males in this nation in a few years.
- For the money you had the pre-
- fumption to fend here, I have received
- it: but till I am fully fatisfied upon
- what footing you may be with that
- fame lord you mention, and whether
- it is not the price of fin, you may be
- e politively assured, that, comparatively
- fpeaking, I am superlatively fixt in
- 'my purpose, never to let the least
- touch of it pollute my digitos.

'F-b-s.

At the conclusion of this extraordinary epistle I was obliged to give vent to the emotions of laughter, which I had forcibly withheld during the time of my reading it; and having sufficiently indulged myself therein, I entreated Sukey to proceed, and she went on thus:

The contents of this strange letter shocked me to the last degree; and finding I had no reason to flatter myfelf with any farther prospects of a reconciliation from that quarter, I laid aside all thoughts of ever again subjecting myself to the pride of so conceited and insolent a wretch. But what gave me no little uneafiness was his mentioning his detestable design upon my fon; for, knowing the temper of the man, and the turn he had at times to lunacy, I was under difmal apprehenfions left he should put his cruel purpose in practice to the utter ruin of my poor boy. Struck with this fear, I wrote

wrote to him a second time, threatening to come down and cut the throats of him and all his family, if he offered to commit such a piece of barbarity; since which I have had little leisure to make any more inquiries, being, as you shall hear, from that very time totally engrossed with missortunes of another kind.

I had lived in this agreeable place for the space of nine months and upwards, when my lord's fon, who had been abroad upon his travels, came home, loaded with the different vices of every nation he had passed through; and in return for a good constitution, brought back the difmal remains of a pair of legs which resembled more the spindles of a distaff, than the suporters of a north-briton; with eyes funk deep in his head, and a nose that, had not the vacancy been supplied with the artificial work of a German, famous for his furnishing our English gentlemen abroad with new handles to their faces. might

might have borne a pretty near refemblance to such as we see upon a human scull when it is distrobed of the ornament of slesh. He had, moreover, bartered his native sincerity for the superficial complaisance of a Frenchman, his bravery and candour for the esseminacy and dissimulation of an Italian; and the generosity and hospitality of his ancestors for the ostentatious parade of a Spanish Don.

He had not been eight days in the house before he fixt his eyes upon me, and began to solicit my compliance to his will with a multiplicity of presents, and a compliment to my beauty couched in the words of some foreign language which he had gleaned up in his travels, and which he affected to make use of on all occasions. But I had suffered too much for my first error of that kind, to think of entering upon a second so easily, and accordingly I returned his trinkets, and acquainted my lady

lady with the proceedings of her son. On this he quitted his advances for some time, and I was in hopes to resume the happiness of my situation, which his late attachment had disconcerted, when I was consounded one night, after having gone to bed as usual, to see a man rush from out a closet, and approach me with the trembling l—st of a fatyr. It was not long before I perceived this object to be no other than my noble admirer, who seeing me snatch up a shoe in order to defend myself from his advances, made a full halt, and began thus:

* Why now, my dear Sukey, what is the meaning of all this foolish nicety at a time when we are by ourselves, and out of all reach of a detection? Some female scruples I will allow in public, the better to keep up appearances, and enhance the value of the obligation; but at such a time as this to stand trisling, is most unaccountable—

countable - it is absolutely now very

childish and filly - it is, upon my ho-

* nour. The impetuolity of my passion

is wound up to the highest pitch of

'expectation; and if you will kindly

onow, and without all this nonfenfical

virtue, join in with my endeavours,

affift my raptures, and afford a ready

compliance to my defires, I will in

return compliment you with a hun-

dred guineas to-morrow morning, and

fettle as much upon you annually

ever afterwards.'

Having uttered this oration with abundance of ridiculous grimace, he approached the bed, and feizing me, attempted to put his defigns in execution. On this I screamed out with all my might, and at the same time, by an accident in the struggle to prevent the effecting his abominable purpose, I struck him so violent a blow over the nose with the shoe I had in my hand, that, not able to stand so rude a shock,

the hinges of it quickly gave way, and it fell to the ground. Confounded at this circumstance, and finding me resolute to oppose him, he instantly quitted his hold, and fearing that some of the family might be drawn thither by my cries, quitted the room with precipitation, though not without telling me, that he wondered at my impudence in refusing a man of his quality, and that I should repent the transactions of that night to all eternity.

In truth, I had no great reason to believe he would be better than his word, and was fearful that his resentment might lead him to get me turned out of the family, and then, thought I, what will become of such a helpless wretch, in a strange land, without money or friends?

In a few days I was too fensibly convinced of my fears, and also to what mean lengths his base heart was capable

of leading him into, to accomplish his revenge: for, knowing his mother had imbibled too good an opinion of me to discharge me from her service for a trisling fault, he contrived, by some means or other, to convey privately his gold watch, and several other things of value, into the bottom of my trunk, and, declaring that some of the domesticks had robbed him, proposed to have a thorough search made through all the family immediately.

Accordingly I delivered my key with the reil of the servants; but how great was my construction, grief and shame, when I saw the very individual things that had been missing taken out from the bottom of my own trunk!

My lady changed colour at this fight, and observed it was an instance of cultonessy which she could never have expected from one who had been treated so kindly: but that she might thank

thank her own foolish good-nature for taking a creature into her family of whom she had no character; and then discharged me from her house, with advice to leave off these courses of pilfering, lest in the end they should bring me to the gallows. It was in vain for me to endeavour to vindicate myself after this seeming instance of thest; for, waving her hand, she bid me be gone directly, and never enter her house more on pain of being sent to Newgate.

When I went down into the kitchen to take leave of my fellow-fervants, they all shunned my approaches like a pestilence; and with a forrowful heart I was obliged to turn out into the wide world without one friend to own me, no character to recommend me to another place, and only seven shillings and fix pence in my pocket.

What to do now, I knew not. I took my trunk to a public-house in the neigh-

neighbourhood, and it was with great difficulty I prevailed upon the people to take it in; so much had my fellowservants traduced me in so short a time to these strangers.

When I thus left the house it was about the obtack, and where to get a totage for that night I knew not. I had spent two hours and more in which are you's where do you come show it what is your name? what do you do for your oread? were still the questions: so, that not being surnished with a shussaffory answer in any of these particulars, no body would admit me into their houses, and I was in danger of periching for want in the streets of London.

I had wandered over great part of the town in this fruitless inquiry, and was returning back the way I came, in utter despair of having any other lodging

lodging but a watch-house, the very thoughts of which shocked my foul; when I found myself under the Piazzas of Covent-garden. I had never been in this part of the town before, and was just beginning to ask a chairman if he could recommend me to a lodging for that night, when an elderly gentleman came out of a tavern hard by, and perceiving both by my dress and language that I was a stranger, came up and asked me who I inquired for. Glad of this opportunity, I told him my whole story without referve, and with tears in my eyes expressed my fears of being obliged to lie in the streets all night; when, to my great amazement, he burst into a fit of laughter, and asked me if I thought to catch him with so trumped up a story.

I was strangely disconcerted to find him behave in this manner, and said, I would appeal to any of my late master's family for the truth of my affertions.

Will you? fays he: if I find the matter is no worfe, I'll do for you, my girl, I promife you. But are you willing to go with me now, till I inquire the truth of all this? And if I find you are telling no stories, as I want a servant, I'll take you home directly.

I was glad to hear of this, and teffified my readiness to accompany him to my lord's house, which I told him was in Pall-mall. 'No, hang it,' says he, 'it is now too late, and I will take 'your word till to-morrow: so come 'along with me, and I will enter you in my service immediately.' I accorded to this with great pleasure, seeing him such a sober grave looking man, and was hugging myself all the way on my good fortune in meeting with such a compassionate gentleman.

When we came to his lodgings in I have held then acture

of my business in this manner: 'You fee, my girl, I have taken your word for every thing you have thought pro-' per to tell me of this affair: so if you have a mind to stay with me, you 6 must agree to the following particu-'lars: first, you must be contented to keep within doors, to keep these 6 chambers always clean, and wait upon • me in the character of a complete · laundress; and that you may have no 6 occasion to go out of doors, the porter of the Inn shall bring you every thing you shall have occasion for from time to time: and in the next f place, you are to give me your com-* pany in the nature of a bed-fellow, whenever I shall find myself disposed • to defire your compliance in that particular. So you know my mind: either take these ten guineas, and stay • where you are, or depart these pre-' mises, and better yourself if you can: though I hardly think any person in

· their

- their fenses will afford a shelter to a
- woman in your fituation.'

Whether they will or not, replied I, flung to the quick, nothing shall prevail upon me to flay longer with a wretch capable of making fo impu-dent a propofal. So faying, I made the best of my way out of the house, meditating on the villainy of mankind in general, and the melancholy prospects before me, without the least hope of procuring a lodging for that night; curfing ten thousand times our finful commerce at F-r-n, with the barbarity of the wretch my uncle, and the unrelenting custom of the country, with regard to that crime, which in other places is rather passed over as the natural effect of unguarded youth.

With these reslections I wandered about till I got once more to Covent-garden; and so much had my miseries engrossed my mind, that I never once

confidered who was near me, and burst into a fit of crying; when a goodly looking gentlewoman, who had just paffed me, turned back and asked me the occasion of my grief, and whether I stood in need of any assistance? This question aroused me effectually. I told her that I was in fo great distress for want of affiftance, that if she or some compassionate body did not speedily relieve me. I had no other prospect bur perishing in the streets, for that I was an utter stranger to the town, and totally destitute of a lodging. I found by her answer, that something in my manner had pleased her; for she said with a fmiling countenance, 'Come along with me, child, I'll provide for vou, till something better turns out. I cannot endure to see so pretty a girl as you are in such circumstances, without pitying your case extremely. Fol-'low me.' I did so, with a joyful heart, bleffing God all the way that had vouchsafed to hear my prayers, by Vol. II. throw-

throwing me in the way of fo charitable a christian.

When we came to her house, which I fince found to be in Southamptonffreet. I was introduced into a very elegant lower parlour, where the gave me a glass of some rich cordial, in order to cheer up my spirits, and told me, if the had reason to approve of my conduct, she would shortly make me a present of some of her cast-off apparel, of which she had great plenty, not much the worse for wear; for that few people laid their clothes aside so soon as she did. However, this depended upon my pleafing her, she said, which if I took care to do I should find her my friend.

I was lost in amazement at this benevolence of hers to a poor out cash, and was upon the point of throwing myself at her seet, in a flood of tears, to testify my unseigned gratitude for such

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 171

such heavenly goodness, when, from the parlour - window, I saw a gay - dressed voung gentleman come out of a hackney-coach, and alight at the door. My benefactor, who I perceived was greatly pleased at the light of him, ran to the door, and received him with abundance of joyful demonstrations, after which they entered into some private discourse in the adjoining room, and I could overhear the words, Green Scotch, pure virgin, and choice tit-bit, bandied ' about with fürprising earnestness.

I now began for the first time to open my eyes a little; and as I recollected to have heard strange stories about the wickedness of London bawds, fancied I had got into the hands of one of those fort of women, and resolved to look about me. But I did not long remain under the suspence of uncertainty, as to her intentions; for, after a little conversation, she brought the gentleman into the room where I was, and

observing, I 2

observing, she would only step and order tea to be got ready, went out, and I could perceive her to turn the key on the outside.

I was very much troubled at this discovery; and, having my head crowded with the most ghastly images of murder and cut-throats, with a huge collection of antient stories of people being killed and buried in draw-wells, I got up, and throwing myself at the young gentleman's feet, begged hin to have compassion on a poor youn creature, who was far from home, and without a fingle friend in England, t affift her in her extremity. These words accompanied with marks of forrow. which were far from being affected at the time, moved him; he defired to know, what brought me there, if I was so afraid of the approaches of a man? and how long I had been acquainted with Mrs. B-n?

I then

I then related the whole story of my proceedings fince my arrival in London, and that I had never feen the gentlewoman he mentioned, till fome minutes before he came into the house. He told me, that I had fallen into bad hands, that the woman was a bawd, who, after she had made her market of me. would turn me adrift to feek my fortune, or perhaps arrest me for some pretended debt, and clap me in a prison; but if I pleased to put myself under his protection, he would instantly take me out of the house I was then in, and provide for me in a manner suitable to the good opinion he had conceived of me.

I had hardly time to return an answer to this proposal, before Mrs. B——n came in, followed by a servant with the tea-equipage, and seeing no marks of distains action in my countenance, for I assumed an air of tranquillity, made no question but we had already come to a I 3 good

good understanding together, and I would answer her purpose to a miracle.

Full of this thought the affumed a most chearful humour, and patting me on the cheek with a fift that feemed more proper to knock down an ox than to demonstrate her kindness, harangued me in this manner: 'Well, my dear, how d'ye like Mr. Barlow? Don't were think the company and conver-* facion of fuch a pretty gentleman is better than lying in the streets all saight, or being exposed to the infults cr a drucken rabble? I am glad to End you are so condescending. I'll saffure you, there is nothing got by waywardness now-a-days; and if you enly conform to my directions, you " that! have no reason to blame me, if ven are not as happy as a dutchels every hour of the day; that's what vou fhan't. Yes, I love girls of com-* pliance as I love my eyes; and if you enly mind your bufiness properly, you

fhall be a made woman. I have some of the richest and handsomest gentlemen in London come to my house; and then they are so generous, and so agreeable, that you will be in continual pleasures, and have more gold than you will know what to do with. On such occasions as these, I am always the banker: and when there are may new clothes to be bought, or any public diversions to go to, it is only ask and ye shall have, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

You are extremely obliging, Madam, faid I, and I return you hearty thanks for your kind intentions; but at present I am possessed with so little money, that I am under very few apprehensions of being any ways incumbered with it, and consequently shall have no use to employ a banker on that occasion; and as to what you mention about your rich visitors, I cannot see what business your ser-

vant has with what company comes here, or how I can any ways be concerned in their good humour, or entitled to their generofity.

It was eafy to perceive, that this unexpected reply disconcerted her extremely. She was intirely at a loss how to fpeak another word, as the had taken it for granted that business had been done by this time; but her furprize was confiderably augmented, when the young gentleman told her, she had done very ill to decoy an innocent young creature into her house with the deceitful pretence of providing for her distresses, when her only view was to facrifice her youth, innocence, and beauty, to the base purposes of hire, disease, and prostitution. Having delivered himself thus, he threw down half a crown for some wine he had ordered at his first coming in; and then took hold of my hand, which I readily gave him, and conducted me out of the house, to the infinite

infinite surprise of the bawd, and no less joy of myself, at beholding once more the open heavens, which foon after my entering this infernal den, I had greatly despaired of ever again being bleffed with a fight of.

Thus far, Sir, have I most chearfully complied with your request, and related to you the most material circumstances of my life from the time of your leaving my uncle's house; but which way shall I be able to proceed to a recital of those which remain behind? Oh! that I could draw a veil before the black account, and hide it from the world! - but it must not be.

Know then, that the terrors I had lately been thrown into by that monster of a man who took me to his lodgings in the Temple; and by that more monster of a woman, Mrs. B-n; the distressful fituation I was reduced to in a strange country, without friends, money,

ney, or even a probable means of procuring a subsistence for more than a few days; and the terrifying circumstance of being taken up by the watch, together with the alluring and preffing instances of the young gentleman, whom gratitude had taught me to look upon as my friend and deliverer, I yielded at last to his follicitations, and consented to accompany him to wherever he would please to lead me. And accordingly he conducted me to a great house in Long-acre, which I afterwards understood to be a bagnio, and the next day took a very handsome first stoor for me ready furnished, where I passed for his wife, and hired a maid-fervant to wait upon me, and moreover made me fo many presents almost every time he came to visit me, which was only twice a week, that I was foon well furnished with choice of good clothes, and fifty guineas in cash.

At the end of about fix months, to my no small surprise, he discontinued his accustomed visits, and had been absent from me about a fortnight. I now began to be under terrible apprehensions about his welfare; for his sincere attachment and generosity had intirely gained him my affections, when one morning I went to visit a girl in Holborn, with whom I had some weeks before contracted an acquaintance.

It happened to be then execution-day, and as her windows fronted the street, I just stept to see those melancholy victims to offended justice pass on to their long home, when, to my eternal horror and despair, I observed, as I thought, my poor lover in the fatal cart, with two other poor creatures in the same dismal circumstances. At this woeful sight my spirits sunk almost to death, and uttering a loud scream, I ran down stairs like a Bedlamite, resolving to be fully satisfied, whether

whether or not my fuspicions were well grounded.

I foon made my way through the crowd, and upon approaching the cart, quickly found my fears had not deceived me; for casting his eyes on that fide where I was, he faw me, and in a forrowful accent addressed me thus: Farewell, my dear Sukey, you must ' comfort yourfelf the best way you can for my lofs; and I am only forry, I have not lived long enough to fet you ' above the icorn of a malicious world. 'The reason of my not acquainting you with my condition proceeded from 'motives of tenderness, well knowing • your gentle nature would be too much 's shocked at it. --- Once more far well! Endeavour to think of me of a person you had never any cor 'nections with.' So faving, he ber his eyes on a book he had in his han and I never faw him more; for I wa so oppressed at this dismal occurrence tha 1 that my eye-fight forfook me, and I fell down in a fwoon.

Upon recovering my spirits, I found myself in the custody of some peace-officers and constables; and when I inquired what was the matter, they told me I was a consederate with Barlow the highwayman, and I must give an account of myself before a justice of the peace. At these dreadful tidings I was ready once more to faint; but it was in vain to attempt to sooth their stony hearts to compassion: and accordingly I was dragged before a certain justice, famous for his antipathy and sympathy to girls of our profession.

When we entered the room where his worship sat in great state, he exclaimed, 'So, hussy, what poor fellow

- have you been ruining both in purse
- and person, that I am ever to be har-
- * raffed thus with your company? But
- I hope this exploit will rid the world of

of fuch a monfter, and relieve the ho-

' nest wife from the apprehensions of

farther mischief from your spreading

contagion. - Speak, huffy, what have

vou done?

On this, one of his emissaries prevented me from fpeaking, by relating my conference with Barlow, and obferved I must certainly be acquainted with all his confederates: 'For, an ' please your worship, says he, ' I heard ' him advise her, not to think of making any more fuch connections, and a ' good deal more to the same purpose.' O ho!' faid the justice, 'I find how the matter stands now. - Well, this is a most lucky discovery! we shall, e perhaps by her means, find out his companions. In the mean time do 'you, Mr. Kinkenny, go and fearch her lodgings, while my clerk writes her mittimus to Newgate. I have been · fo fatigued with business this whole morning, that I must defer her exa-' mination >

'mination till to-morrow.' He then advised me to recollect myself; and if, by my means, the rest of the gang could be apprehended, I might bid fair to come off for this once, for transportation during life.

This last observation alarmed me greatly; I assumed my courage as well as possible, and told him, that I had done nothing to deserve Newgate, or transportation either; and wondered upon what account I had been brought thither. 'You shall know all that to'morrow,' replied this stern janisary;
'till when, Mr. Constable, let her be
'committed to Clerkenwell Bridewell.'

To avoid entering too minutely into particulars, I shall only observe to you, that, after having been examined five different times (in which they could draw nothing from me, as I really was ignorant of my deceased lover's proceedings, having always taken him for a gentle-

gentleman of fortune) and confined fix weeks in Bridewell, I was at last discharged with only the few clothes I had left of what had not been pawned for my maintenance during my refidence in prison: for, on their first fearching my lodgings, they had secured all my money and trinkets, under pretence of stolen goods, so that I never saw any more of them, and was too much shocked at the dreadful visage of his worship, to make any farther inquiries about the matter.

Thus was I deprived of a most agreeable companion, who, during the whole time of our being together, used me in the most generous manner imaginable; and reduced once more from a state of comfortable sufficiency, to suffer all the miseries of hunger, cold, poverty, and want, with no more to begin the world anew again but eighteen pence.

I should now have been in as bad a way as ever, had I not picked up a little more knowledge of the world than I had fome months before: but during my refidence with my departed lover. I had contracted several acquaintances with girls of high keeping; and finding myself in this distressful fituation, I thought no time was to be loft. till I should settle myself upon a more agreeable footing. Accordingly to one of these I went, and, unfolding the circumstances of my late disaster, the recommended me to a certain worthy matron, who lent out clothes by the week, and very often by the night, to girls who were not fufficiently furnished with these articles, upon a promise of being handsomely rewarded from the profits of the expedition.

Upon producing my comrade's letter, fhe made no fcruple to equip me to the best advantage, and from my untainted youth and beauty, conceived vast hopes

of my fuccess—But, without descending to particulars, which would give me pain in the relating, and be shocking to the ears of any one, who is not a mere profligate; be it sufficient to inform you, that I went gradually through, from one stage to another, of this infamous profession, till my life became a burden to me, and I resolved to extricate myself from such scenes of wickedness as soon as ever I could be so happy to raise as much money as would serve to carry me back to Scotland.

With this view I was one night tempted to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch and money; but being detected, I was fent to New Prison, and had not the gentleman been so compassionate as not to appear against me at the ensuing sessions, I should certainly have either been hanged, or transported, for this my first and last attempt of the kind.

However, this affair put an end to my views of going home, at least for one while: for, during my confinement, I had spent all my little money, so that, when I was discharged, mere necessity obliged me to engage with a noted bawd in Exeter-street, in whose house I contracted such a complication of distempers, that my life became a burden; and, to add to my afflictions, was foon after turned out almost naked upon the wide world to feek my fortune, where having wandered almost a month, a wretched outcast, pursued by want, misery, disease, and the stings of a guilty conscience, I looked upon my diffolution as the only means left to rid me of my misfortunes: and had not Providence fent you fo feafonably to relieve me, I had certainly this very night put an end to my miferable existence by suicide.

CHAP. XI.

I make Sukey an honest woman by marriage. — Go after a place of two hundred a year, which proves a bite upon the public. — Am horribly chagrined, but relieved by a second advertisement. — Overhear a discourse in a cossee-house, and am prevented from being taken in by a fresh discovery.

at the same time that it shocked my soul to hear, filled my breast with sympathizing sorrow, and deep-felt anguish. I considered, that all her sufferings and afflictions were the natural consequences of her first attachment to me; and that, far from glorying in those scenes of iniquity, in which she had unhappily been engaged, I had a very alarming instance, that, rather than remain longer in such a sinful course, she had even chose

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 189 chose to sacrifice her life, since she had no farther prospect of re-instating herself in the forsaken paths of virtue.

In consequence of these restections, I thought it my indispensible duty to make her all the recompence in my power; and this I did the very next morning by marrying her. She received this token of my affection as became her; and was so overcome at my generosity, that she shed sloods of tears: all which I took as the natural indications of a mind labouring under the sense of unmerited obligations.

As the thoughts of our fon now very much engrossed our attention, I dispatched a letter to my old school-master, with a desire to be informed of the child's health, and at the same time acquainted him with my marriage to his niece. In course of post, I received the following remarkable epistle:

SIR. TOUT that some few sparks of grace feem still to center in your al-· most graceless heart, by thus inquiring after the fruit of your difgraceful com-· merce with that degenerate creature; whom I will no longer call my niece, you had never received this honour from me. Yet, that you may not be too much elevated at my extraordinary condescension in placing that refpectful monofyllable, which you find at the head of this epiftle, you will do well to recollect, that the title of ' Sir is equally fignificant of Sir knave, ' as Sir gentleman, the former of which ' you may very properly apply to yourfelf as the true indication of my prefent meaning. Knave, then, rogue, and 'villain, as you have been to me and 6 mine, and degenerated as you are from all moral rectitude, yet, there was a 6 time, when you had the happiness to have the most shining examples of · virtue

virtue before your eyes, when a
'F-b-s regulated the steps of your
youth, whose paths were paths of
righteousness. Yet you fell, and villanously rebelled against the hand that
raised you to the most elevated tops of
the slowery Parnassus. What then can
you expect but, like your grand prefident Lucifer, to be plunged headlong to the bottomless pit of stery
Phlegeton, to inhabit the caverns of
the infernal Tartarus, and, with baleful eyes, to explore the gloomy prisons
of joy-dispelling Acheron?

'You fay, you are married; but can marriage compensate for the eternal infamy you have intailed on my name and family? Did you not glory in your iniquity? and has not the slut eluded that wholesome church-discipline enjoined by the faithful for falling sinners, which could only have reconciled her to the presbytery? What then re-

6 mains but excommunication, and a 6 direful looking forward to heavy 6 judgment?

As for the child you abandoned to my care, he may, for any thing I know to the contrary, be in the manfions of the godly; at least I have acquitted myself with regard to him as became a christian and a F—b—s. He expired fix months ago under all the benedictions of the church; yet, if you will resect on that dreadful fentence, "I will visit the fins of the fathers unto the third and fourth geineration," your wicked heart may tremble, lest your unhallowed loins may have given an heir to hell.

'Think of this, thou wretch, and remember

' F-b-s.'

Τo



To return.—— I had no fooner difharged the aforementioned articles of ny duty, and paid the tribute of a few ears to the memory of my departed hild, in which Sukey accompanied me with great cordiality, than I communitated to her the fum and extent of my fortune, which, upon a thorough injection, amounted to barely five hunired pounds. As this was a fum which, in fuch a place as London, could not long be expected to support two people in a course of idleness, I consulted with Sukey what was best to be done in the present emergency.

After we had debated this matter for some time, nothing appeared more applicable to our present situation, than for me to purchase a place in some of the public offices, on the salary of which we might live with decency, while she employed herself in plainwork, or if any money could be spared to put her into business, she might com-

mence milliner, and endeavour to get fomething that way.

In consequence of this resolution, I looked sharp out for something in the aforesaid way, and it was not long before a very pompous advertisement appeared in the public papers, setting forth, that a very handsome place of two hundred a year was to be difposed of without loss of time, and that principals were to apply immediately at a certain coffee-house in Bstreet. In consequence of this, I did not fail to give attendance; but was furprized to find the house already full of persons of all ages, who had come with intent to treat about the very affair in question. I had already drank three dishes of coffee, and as many gills of wine, in hopes of coming to an explanation concerning the business in hand; but I was as near my point as at my first entrance: for not a syllable could I procure with the feller for love of money.

money, who was every now and then running up and down stairs with the greatest hurry and precipitation, attended by such a cluster of young fellows at his heels, as put me in mind of the pupils of a principal surgeon at an hospital, when he is paying his duty there.

At length, by joining in with the cavalcade, after much difficulty, and measuring the altitude of the house from bottom to top several times, I did procure the happiness of a word or two; when he very complaisantly told me, that he was just about bringing the matter to a conclusion with a perfon above stairs: but, if I would only have patience for a few minutes, and step into a private room, if he did not absolutely dispose of it then, I should certainly have the next offer.

I was much pleased at this intellin gence, and was retiring towards another
apartment, in order to regale myself

K 2 over

over a little punch, when an old fellow in a laced coat very much tarnished, and who had received the very answer which had been given me, but five minutes before, perceiving every body complimented in the fame manner, exclaimed with great fury, 'You and your place may be d-n'd! I believe it is all a bite upon the public, in order to draw custom to the house at the expence of all the fools in town: but, d-n me, if I'll augment 'the number any longer;' and then went out in high dudgeon, leaving me in twenty minds to follow him; for I could have no idea how one thing could be bought by upwards of fifty people at once.

While I remained in this state of suspence, the alarm was given, that a bargain was struck above stairs, and there was no farther occasion for attendance: on which the company departed about their business; all of them not a little

little vexed at having fpent fo much time to fo little purpose: many of whom shook their heads, and made use of the epithets, "Bite, d—n'd bite, hum-"bug, and queer buffers," with symptoms of uncommon resentment.

For my part, this and many other disappointments of the like nature gave me a great dislike to place-hunting; as I found that, during these researches, my money dissolved apace: besides, a few weeks after the first affair I was informed by an accidental acquaintance at an eating-house, that all this buftle and folemnity had been calculated with no other view, than to draw in a young fellow to lend a round furn upon the fecurity of this very place in question; which had produced this effect, that the the borrower had gone off, over head and ears in debt, having disposed of his office to an acquaintance fome days before in a private manner; and the man that advanced the money, not finding K 3 his

his cash come in according to expectation, was thrown into a jail, where he was like to repent of his folly and indiscretion at leisure.

This discovery did not in the least contribute towards the satisfaction of my mind; as I perceived, that the longer I lived, I had the more opportunities to see the villainy of mankind in general, who preyed upon one another with more savage fury than the beasts of the field; and I was even under shocking apprehensions of wasting a year or two, in the fearful expectation of incroaching penury, and then augment the number of those wretches, who had already fallen a victim to the villainy of destroying man.

I was greatly dispirited at these fort of reslections, when the following paragraph aroused my attention, in spite of my former resolution to the contrary;

- 'To be disposed of directly, for one hun-
 - ' dred and seventy pounds sterling, a
 - ' very genteel place for life; falary
 - 'and perquifites amount to about a
 - hundred pound per annum. En-
 - ' quire at the R---- coffee-house
 - ' in the _____.
- N. B. It is most earnestly desired, that
 - 4 no persons will give themselves the
 - trouble to apply, as this is a real.
 - agood thing, but they whose charac-
 - ter in life will bear the most exact
 - fcrutiny.

I thought this looked fomething feafible indeed, as it was not only a moderate competency for any man, but also excessive cheap, a circumstance that suited the channel of my pockets and inclination extremely. Then again, the article of 'no person but of character and reputation are desired to apply. That looks well, thinks I, and this is certainly one of those lucky hits, which happen, perhaps, once or twice in a K 4

century, and are not to be overlooked. So I went after it in great expectations, taking the money in my pocket, to be ready to purchase upon the spot, if occasion should require it.

A PRINCIPLE BUTTON

Upon entering the house, I was so far from feeing it crowded with company, as I had expected, that there was only the mafter and another man engaged in very earnest conversation. As I thought they could have no idea that I was any other than a chance customer, I took up a news-paper, and began to read with a shew of great attention, but nevertheless with intent to overhear their discourse the better unperceived. It was not long ere one of them broke out with. 'What a d-n'd loss on now is the deficiency of a little cash to me, on this occasion! - here I could have had an opportunity to provide for my family to all intents and purposes, for a hundred a year is no * mean thing. Besides, you say there

is no great attendance, and a man may follow any other business at pleasiure. Had my poor son Will been alive now, and had but the dust, this job would have done for him effectually: for the business of this place is such as to admit of some leisure time, in which you know a man may be getting a little pocket-money by posting up any merchant's accounts a few hours in the day. But neither of these things can now be, and I am the most unfortunate man alive.

Here he was succeeded by the landlord, who pronounced in some surprise, I wonder what in the world Mr.— means by this inconsiderate step! Sure I am, the place he is now disposing of is well worth a hundred a year, including perquisites. But I fancy the young fellow has been a little extravagant; and you know this London is the devil and all for lead-K 5

ing a man into debt. There are so many ways for one to employ one's money so agreeably, that a person very often over-runs the constable before he is aware; and when once a man, in a public office, gets inthralled with debt, it kicks up his heels at once, as he cannot attend his business without being arrested, and if he abfoods, he loses his place: for the king's work must be done at any rate.

I thought these reasons so satisfactory, that I was of opinion no time was to be lost, lest some new intruder might get the start of me; and inquired, with some emotion, the nature of the affair they were speaking of. Here the land-lord told me with a very serious countenance, that it was no sham thing, invented to draw in the ignorant and unwary, but actually a very handsome settlement for any single man during life, with this advantage, that he might

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 203 have an opportunity to dispose of it again for the same money, at a minute's warning; and that it was inserted in the preceding days papers at large.

But what is the nature of it, Sir? faid I, for I remember something of it now; and if I like it, will become a purchaser. But before he would answer me to this question, he desired to know if I was a single man; to which I replied in the affirmative: when he assured me my business was done; for it was a competency for any person who could live within bounds, and would maintain him like a gentleman.

This information pleased me vastly. I assured him, that my passions were none of the most unreasonable in their demands, and again demanded the nature and name of the business. 'I'll tell 'you what, Sir,' said he, 'the purchase money is no more than one hundred 'and

and feventy pounds, which, confidering the annual income, is but a trifle.

'Then again, whoever has this place,

is entitled to the freedom of the city,

which shall be presented him when

the bargain is concluded; fo that you

fee plainly, Sir, there is no bite here,

and all is fair above board.

But the name, Sir, fays I. 'Why the name, Sir, quoth he, 'is ad-' mirably adapted to the business, and conveys an idea of its importance in a minute. Its name, Sir, is distin-' guished by the appellation of "Yeo-"man to the sheriffs of the city." I thought this indeed a very grand name, and promifed to call again in a day or two, to give him a categorical answer: but he gave me to understand, that I was under a very great mistake, to think a place of that nature would be half an hour in disposing of, far less a couple of days; and observed, that if I had really

really any thoughts that way, I would do well to give earnest directly, with a direction where to inquire after my character, and if approved of, that I might be found at a minute's warning: otherwise he could not promise to insure its not being occupied by some other person, who had a better regard to their interest.

But I was determined to do nothing rashly, since I had so often experienced the folly of trusting to appearances, however flattering; and took my leave for that time, fully resolved to inquire a little farther into the matter.

Accordingly, the same evening, I went to an ale-house in Cheapside, in order to consult the master thereof, and learn the opinion of some citizens of my acquaintance on this occasion. I was just beginning to open the affair to the landlord, when a dispute arising among

among some dirty fellows in the kitchen, I overheard one of them cry out, 'D—n' you, Sir, don't talk to me, I'm your betters;' which the other retorted by observing, that since he had dissigured himself with that blue cassock at the Old Baily, he had forgot himself, and was saucy; but for all his pride, he was no better than a bailist's follower. 'You lie, you dog,' says his antagonist, 'I'm a yeoman to the sherist of 'the city.'

I was thoroughly alarmed at these words; and applying to the master, demanded the meaning of that office the man had spoken of: when he told me that he was a very silly sellow, and was not to be pitied, for that he had ruined himself by throwing away a deal of good money for nothing. The fellow was a shoemaker, says he, and might have lived comfortably enough, as his wife is a very industrious fort of a body,

and besides a most excellent housewife; but instead of following his trade, he fold all off, and purchased this place he was just now boasting of; the income of which is only conditional for the most part, according as the owner applies himself to business; none of which reflects either honour or credit to the individual. It confifts chiefly in attending the inferior courts, such as Guildhall and the Old Baily; fetching up the rear of a procession on a Lordmayor's day; and ferving copies of writs. Indeed, his neighbour did not give it a wrong name in that of a bailiff's follower, for it is only fit to be conducted by people of that vocation.

I now thought myself extremely happy in having escaped this bait; and without hinting my intentions to any body, as I fancied that would only expose my own ignorance the more, I resolved to lay aside all farther dependance

on this scheme, which I found was the height of folly to build upon without some honest friend in power, and who knew thoroughly the nature of such transactions; and turn my mind to something else, that should ward off the approaches of poverty and all its dreadful attendants.

In a few days I read the same advertisement again, which, notwithstanding all the landlord had said, was prolonged for the space of three weeks, with this alteration, that the purchase money was dwindled down to seventy pounds; at the end of which time I heard, that a young fellow, who in a course of several years servitude had scraped together a little money, was taken in by the specious allurement, and either obliged to give a mean and laborious attendance, or then dispose of his bargain for a third of the money: in which case the worthy master of the coffee-house was

ployed as broker, who not only, by ans of these transactions, seathered own nest at the expence of both the rer and seller, but also found a nestailing remedy to enlarge his busis, by attracting all the young fellows London who were out of employant, and had a little cash to favour his see, at least five times a month, with r custom.



CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Lay aside all thoughts of place-hunting. — Resolve to turn publican, and apply to a register-office. — Am harangued by the master, who inveighs bitterly against the villainy of brewers and distillers.— Professe great friendship, and introduces me to a house in Southwark. — He practises a remarkable instance of his calling, but is prevented from reaping the fruits of his attachment by a queer discovery. — Sukey is seized with a violent sever, and dies the third day.

BUT though I had all the reason in the world to be satisfied in having so narrowly escaped this trap, yet, I could not help being very much dispirited at my precarious situation; hourly lamenting that, amidst a trading and slourishing city, I should thus be devoid of all manner of business. And

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 211

this was the more irksome to me, not only as I saw my money melting away apace, but also, as my constitution was not calculated for inactivity, and my health visibly declining. Sukey, indeed, poor girl, was indefatigable to render my expences as few as possible, and by close application to plain-work, made shift to make both ends of the week answer without breaking in upon the capital: but still this would never do, I languished for action; and at last despairing of meeting with any offer to my mind, entertained the notion of commencing publican,

Though this was a step that but ill suited my pride, yet I found that several very creditable people were embarked in that very branch, and some of them even made their fortunes by it in a few years.

I remembered also the words of my false friend, the stock-broker, which, how-

however fallacious in other respects, were certainly true in this case, viz. that a man without some business in London is looked upon as no better than a non-entity in the community, and liable to the inspection of every petty warrant constable or justice of peace, as a person dangerous to society.

In order, therefore, to take time while time was, and do something before my all was gone, I communicated my intentions to my wise, who approved of them greatly, and hugged herself not a little in the exact management she would observe in her family, and the figure she should cut in a well surnished bar.

Full of this scheme, I bent my mind to bring it to bear in the most effectual manner, and applied forthwith to a noted register-office, where I paid my quota very readily, and likewise treated the master with a bowl of punch, in order

order to influence him the more in my favour. He accordingly promifed me wonders; observed, that a public way was actually at this juncture the most thriving trade in the Universe; and asked me, if I could afford to go the length of one hundred guineas.

Glad of this opportunity to manifest my importance, I told him, that if any genteel thing of good custom and established reputation should fall in his way, I would not even scruple to go the length of three hundred upon a pinch, and if it had conveniencies for raising up a few stables upon the premises, so much the better, as I might then make something by letting out horses; for that I resolved to enter into the spirit of the business at once.

'Say you so?' quoth this worthy member of the community, 'Ecod! I 'see you are another guess fort of a man, than many I have met with.—
'Let

Let me alone to do your bufiness. -I love to fee young men of fpirit there is nothing like it - you can then have an opportunity to keep your brewer and diffiller under, who, to tell vou a fecret, that I wou'dn't chuse to acquaint every body with, I do affure you, are very good fervants, but extreme bad masters. What is the reason, d'ye think, of so many public houses to be let every other day? Why nothing in the world but this -' a roolish couple have no sooner scraped together the fum of fixty or feventy pounds, than, unwilling to remain · longer in a state of servile dependance, they must for sooth be for commencing housekeepers, and entering among the honourable order of publicans. an easy matter to take a house, and throw away the best part of their ' money upon the purchase of fixtures, and what not; nay, even to procure credit with their brewer and distiller to boot: but, not having a fufficient find

fund in bank, if trade is a little dead at first, as in most cases it generally ' is, even in the best of houses, they are then under a necessity to run still farther in debt to these men; who, if onot persons of a very christian principle, oblige them to take the very refuse of their liquors, which, not answering their customers palates, these confcientious creditors directly feize f upon the premises to indemnify themfelves, and, by a writ of ejectment, turn the wretched fools into the wide world, to repent of their folly at leifure - So that I again fay, Sir, you are extremely in the right of it, to begin with a full hand; and I will do for you, I promife you.

I was wonderfully taken with the open dealing of the man; and when I went home, gave a detail of the particulars of this conference to my wife, who observed, that all these things were not only probable, but might be likewise

wife true, and yet the register-man nevertheless a rogue for all that, and adwifed me to do nothing rashly, but to proceed with caution in the affair.

In a very few days after this conference he waited upon me with fymptoms of infinite fatisfaction in his countenance, and fhaking me by the hand, 'My "dear friend," favs he, " now or never is the time to fettle yourfelf to the · furrait of your withes. A house that · might not difgrace my lord mayor to · live in, is now to be let - I fmelt this · out prefently, being a little cunning, . but I verily believe there is not another perion in London so much as · jurieits the least thought of fuch a thing; otherwise, God have mercy on there would be no coming within the reach of it for a thousand pounds.

Though I had no great opinion of all this flourishing, I was nevertheless molved to see the issue of the affair, and

and accompanied him to the borough of Southwark. Just as we had croffed London bridge, he stopt short of a sudden, and pretending to recollect himself, begged me to step into a public house, where we could have a tist of punch, as he had a note of some dispatches to take down upon paper.

Accordingly in we went, and after a little stay, he observed that he had fixed the master of the house we were in, into as good bread as any in the city, and only six weeks before. During the time our punch was making, my conductor took occasion to ask the landlord how trade went on, and took notice that this young gentleman, meaning me, was just going to increase the number of the fraternity — and where d'ye think is to be the place? why, no other than the twelve B—s in St. M—y O—v—y's church-yard.

Vol. II.

T

He

He had no fooner uttered this last obfervation, than mine hoft laying the bowl of punch out of his trembling hand upon the table, affumed a most ghaftly look, accompanied with a faultering voice, and exclaimed, 'God forbid! no, fure, you do but joke! and only want to frighten me .- The twelve ' B-s in St. M-y O-v-y's churchvard to be let! is it possible? If I could but think my good and trufty friend ' Mr. M——I could be capable of using ' me thus, I don't know what might be the confequence.' He then threw himself back in his chair, and remained flupidly mute for fome feconds, till at last he thought proper to break silence, by demanding in a furious tone, What the devil he meant by clapping him into fuch a little puny, paultry place, where he was almost stiffled for want of breath, when such a glorious and magnificent house was to be disposed of, where a man might make double the rent by lodgers; obliving, he would not have valued

valued the quitting his present house, if he should have paid the whole year's charges, and been at the expence of moving all his furniture to boot, could he have only been so happy as to have known this sooner; and concluded with telling him in pretty severe terms, that he had used him damn'd ill, and he should take care to resent it accordingly.

My good friend now thought it incumbent upon him to make some apologies for this rash step in breach of friendship, by most solemnly protesting that he had not the least knowledge of the matter till late last night, and that in the nature of things it was impracticable to have done otherwise, without incurring a vast expence. 'Expence!' said the landlord, 'd—n expence! when 'a man has an opportunity of settling

^{&#}x27; himself for life, what signifies the trif-

^{&#}x27;ling furn of a few score of guineas?'

For Heaven's fake, Sir, quoth the register-keeper, 'don't be in all this passion. I am not sure but the master may keep it up some few months longer, in order to raise the good will; but at any rate be sure to be silent as to this affair: for should the thing once come to be blown, it might do me a great injury, and yourself no good.'

But all these slattering suggestions lost much of their intended effect upon me. I remembered the proceedings of the Fleet-merchant too well to be taken in by a similitude; and, without hinting my mind to either of them, made a motion to proceed to business, resolving to see to the bottom of it.

At going away, the landlord faluted me with, 'Well, Sir, what must be, 'must be, and there is no help for fa-'tality. I wish you much joy of your 'nappy prospects, though I can't help 'envying

envying you a little neither: but every man has his good and ill fortune, and you have yours. My motto, I find, must be fair and softly, but other people have their own luck and the devil's to boot. You'll excuse my homely proverb, Sir; but 'tis an old faying and a true, one man may slave on all his days in a pitiful servile drudgery, and hardly keep life and foul together, while another shall jump

into an estate at once, and that by the very same means that proved his

e neighbour's ruin.'

When we entered the premises, I found the publican had not said wrong, when he called it a glorious and magnificent house. It was indeed large enough to lodge several companies of grenadiers in, it being no less than five stories high. Though, what surprised me not a little, was, that this huge overgrown mansion had not a living soul of a customer in it all the time of my visit-

L₃ ing

ing the feveral apartments; which, when I took notice of with fome wonder, they told me, that all company was prohibited for that day, for fear of diffurbing the miffress of the house, who was extremely ill with a violent pain in the head. I thought this account pretty singular, that she could not find one corner in so large a place to hide herself in, without affronting her customers by turning them forcibly out of doors.

In going over the feveral rooms, the master, in whose countenance was visibly pictured ruin, poverty, and despair, was very complaisantly telling me the manifold uses that each might be put to, in order to improve the trade; and when we mounted the upper-story, he took notice of the glorious situation of a fort of barricaded balcony with a cover to it, and after expatiating on the pleasant prospect it had all over the Thames, took notice, it would be the finest

finest place in the world for a taylor to accommodate his journeymen at their work, who, being exalted fo high above their neighbours, would inchant the whole parish with the music of their voices, and cherup out harmony like fo many nightingales.

This curious observation had such an 'effect upon my risible faculties, that I built out in a violent fit of laughter, and defired to know, why he, that was fuch an excellent schemer, did not put this fine thought in practice? telling him, that as the taylors would fing like nightingales, they would infallibly be under a necessity to drink like fishes, and confequently be a most excellent indoors trade for a certainty. He was disconcerted very much at this question; and after a little pause, was fain to lay his omission of so important an article to the care he had of his wife's health, which would certainly be much injured by the tumultuous noise of so many bass-

baß-viols. But I objected to this argument, by observing, with an ironical facer that gave him very unpromising hopes of success, that the best way to remove that inconvenience would have been to establish a weekly, or even a daily club of oister-women and bunters, to be stationed in the opposite apartment, who, joyning their treble to the taylors bass music, would not have failed to have rendered the whole an agreeable concert.

He made no reply to this, otherwise than by a forced smile, and asking me to step with him into another part of the house. In short, when we had ranged over the whole place from top to bottom, during which every piece of surniture exhibited the appearance of desolation. I desired to be acquainted with the particulars of coming in, that I might the better know how to proceed; telling him I had conceived an extraordinary liking to the situation, and

as my wife was not disturbed with those fort of troublesome disorders attendant on his, I could more easily bring his project of the taylors to bear.

On this my landlord very gravely went to a bureau, and taking out a fcroll of paper, put it into my hands, telling me, that I would find an account of the whole expence included in that bill, which, when I had opened it, I found to be as follows:

To stock in trade at prime	
cost — 50 0	
To fixtures, and furniture 50 0	0
To utenfils in the business 100	0
To good-will for being al-	
lowed to come in —— 50 0	0
Total £. 160 0	0

While I was examining the particulars of this bill, a poor draggle-tailed wretch came in, being the first living soul I had seen of a stranger since my L 5 entrance,

entrance, and covering all the kitchenfire over with fprats, called for half a pint
of beer. The mafter made many fevere
remonstrances against this proceeding,
but received nothing but abusive language in return; but she had hardly
tasted the beer before she declared with
a multiplicity of oaths, that it was as
four as vinegar, and roared out for a
quartern of gin to prevent the bad effects of the beer, which she was sure
would not fail to give her a fit of the
cholick.

He was just endeavouring to apologize to me for the woman's behaviour, when a large body of men approached the door, at which my landlord changed colour, and was so overpowered at the fight of these unwelcome visitors, that he almost fainted away. My conductor himself appeared also very much disconcerted; while the landlady, hearing more than ordinary commotion below stairs, notwithstanding her severe

head-ach, made shift to crawl down stairs, and, at fight of the strangers, was almost struck dead with her fears.

I foon found the cause of all this confusion to be owing to the collectors of parish rates, who, having been put off from time to time, were now come to carry their commissions in execution. This they did so effectually, that in a few minutes there was not a single plece of small furniture to be seen in the house which they had not packed up, in order to make good the arrears that were due.

Finding by this unexpected accident, that there was no farther prospect of profiting by my hands, or indeed by any other person, as the poverty of the business would soon become notorious like a spreading contagion, the unfortunate couple kept no longer measures or bounds to their resentment; they broke out into the most opprobrious invectives

of the office-keeper, who, they faid, had ruined them for ever by his deceitful wickedness; and recounted, to my infinite amazement, no less than twelve poor families whom he had brought to destruction by means of his diabolical practices, in the space of six months, and the half of that number in the very same house.

I was fo struck with horror at hearing these monstrous proceedings, which indeed the poor souls in question manifested both by their looks and situation, were but too true, that I snatched up a fire-shovel, and had not the villain evaded my blow by dexterously quitting the ground immediately, I should infallibly have laid him sprawling.

Before I took my leave of the poor deluded people, I understood from them, that when they came into the house, the office-keeper had found means to represent

present things in such a light, that they had actually given thirty guineas good will; but had not been in possession five days, before a number of taxes unpaid for quarters before, came upon their hands, and they found the licence was not valid; that besides, they had had so little custom, that their whole stock of beer was spoiled; and, in a word, that they were many pounds worse than nothing, being in danger of a jail every hour. I now took my leave, and returned home, exceedingly chagrined at this day's transactions.

Soon after, to augment my melancholy condition, my poor Sukey, who very probably had taken these many disappointments to heart, fell sick, and notwithstanding all possible endeavours to assist and preserve her, the perseverance of a burning sever bassed all attempts of the faculty, and, by its inveterate obstinacy, plainly shewed her hour to be almost come.

On

On the third day of this fatal visitor, finding her spirits decline apace, and that she could not long promise to enjoy the free use of her senses, as her head already began to be silled with strange phantoms, she called me to her bed-side, and, in broken accents, addressed me thus:

'My dearest husband, I am now e going to give an account of all my actions to that Eternal Being, who is the Judge of all hearts, and learcheth the most secret thoughts of men. But 'as he has been pleased, of his merciful goodness, to call me out of the finful state I was in, and given me a fusficient portion of his grace to enable ' me, by a steady adherence to the principles of virtue, to work a thorough reformation in my life and manners, 'I have the less to fear; happy in this, that, fince our union, I have discharged 'my duty both to him and to you, as 'much as in me lay; and that I am ot °



- to appear before him in his own time,
- and not in that I had marked out for
- 'myself, and in which I must have
- e perished for ever, had not his goodness
- and mercy prevented it, by fending
- you to my aid -----

She was going to proceed, but the hand of death was upon her, and she expired immediately, leaving me so stupisfied with the alternate passions of grief and despair, that I fell into a kind of delirium, and talked to her as if she had been still sensible of my kindness: but, alas! upon awakening from this state of delusion, to my eternal sorrow I found she was gone for ever.



CHAP. XIII.

In order to diffipate my melancholy, I go to Maidenhead races. — Engage in play, and carry off an hundred and feventy pounds. — Find means to over-reach a sharper for two hundred guineas.

THIS fatal stroke quite unhinged me; I was no longer the same jovial sprightly young fellow as before; the most delightful scenes of gaiety and pleasure were tasteless to me, and nature put on an unwonted appearance of gloom. I found myself deprived all at once of the most agreeable companion, the most disinterested friend, the ablest counsellor, and the tenderest wife that ever man was blessed with.

I had experienced the folly and shallow foundation of trusting to appearances,

pearances, from the villanous behaviour of the stock-broker, and numberless other instances besides; and now, when I had found out a most faithful friend. a notable adviser in the most pressing emergencies, and a most agreeable wife and discrete partner, to be secluded from her endearing company by the cruel hand of death, and just in the infancy of our fellowship, was a blow which all my philosophy could hardly My spirits, hitherto extremely volatile, now funk almost to the extreme verge of despair; and that lively genius, which had all along prompted me to foar upon the most elevated wings of fancy, was now condenced to a degree of stupefaction, and which was greatly increased, when I found that all I had remaining of my fortune was only four hundred pounds, a fum which, in my then way of life, was hardly fufficient to maintain me a couple of years.

In

In this dejection of foul, and to chace away the melancholy reflections that intruded upon my mind on the thoughts of my lonely condition, I hired a hore, and refolved to take a ride up to Maidenhead races, where I heard there was to be excellent fport. But that I might not be tempted a fecond time to venture the lofs of my money in a business with which I was so little acquainted, I took no more than five guineas in my pocket, and determined to live as sparingly as possible, to compensate for this excursion.

Upon entering the course, there were a vast number of the nobility and gentry present, which sight so animated my spirits, that I repented a thousand times I had not brought more money with me. However, that I might not intirely remain an idle spectator, while other people were so agreeably employed, I ventured to lay two guineas with

with a Londoner, who had accompanied me part of the way, and I had the good fortune to gain this first bet.

Flushed with so lucky a beginning, I doubled the stakes on the side of a horse that belonged to the duke of C----, and was fo fortunate as to fucceed here also. This double advantage did my business effectually. I proceeded boldly; and mixing among the better company, accepted a gentleman's offer on the part of a chesnut gelding for ten guineas, which I had the satisfaction to pocket in a trifle of There was no stopping my career now: I ventured with half a dozen at a time, and fortune still favouring my boldness, I found myself by sunfet one hundred and feventy guineas in pocket.

I thought now it was a difgrace to be feen on a common hired horse, tho' I had

I had the confolation to perceive many well-dreffed people on the place worse mounted: I therefore agreed with my landlord, to let me have the use of one of the best horses in his stable, which he readily agreed to, and I made him a solutable return.

Next day I attended the races in vaft spirits, having a design in my head, which I put in practice in this manner: I had over night acquainted my landlord with my extraordinary good fortune, on which he congratulated me very joyfully; observing, that if I laid a large fum upon the fide of a black gelding belonging to Sir Francis D-d, I might make my fortune, as he had overheard a discourse between the two jockeys that were to ride them, which plainly shewed there was roguery in the cate; that many people would be very difagreeably deceived on the event of that heat, and I was at liberty to improve

prove the hint to the best advantage. This I did not fail to promise, and at the same time thanked him for so sea-sonable an infinuation. But by this time I had gained such an insight into mankind, as very much to doubt the veracity of any man who professed so much civility to an utter stranger; and resolved for this once to shew him a specimen of northern sagacity and comprehension.

Furnished with this seasonable precaution, I determined to act warily, and at least keep what I had got, if I could see no hopes to double it; when a country gentleman, seemingly to outward appearance, accosted me with, One hundred guineas to fifty on the fide of that black gelding. This was just as I had expected; and not doubting but he was the person engaged to sleece me, I told him I was so far from opposing him in that respect, that I would

I would lay him fifty to ten on the fame fide. 'Two hundred guineas to fifty on the black gelding,' cried he, 'and ' down with the money.' By this time the horses were just ready to start, and our altercation drawing a crowd of gentlemen around us, I let him repeat his bet of two hundred to fifty on the black gelding in the hearing of all the spectators, which he was the rather induced to do, from a supposition that I would never accept him after the last night's tutoring, and in order to draw me in the deeper, when I took him up short, by crying out, 'Done! fifty to two hundred on the part of lord 'G---'rs Arabian.'

This unexpected turn had fuch an effect on my antagonist, that he had almost dropt from his saddle, and was preparing to slink off in great consustion, when I insisted he should either down with the money, or attend the issue,

FHAMILTON MURRAY. 239

and a number of gentlemen, then nt, forcing him thereto, he was ed to give me the full sum upon teat's turning out in my favour. he came by so thorough an intellice, as to the event of this affair, was a gloud not comprehend: but I had my hopes so firmly, that no stranger dadvise me to any thing of that re, but with a view to cheat me; I was determined to risk sifty adds on the issue, and if I lost it, have a better opinion of mankind after, even in spite of the most omising appearances.

his was the only time I had ever I with any degree of fagacity in afof this nature. I hugged myfelf ly on so large an acquisition to my une in two days; and the races ng the same night, I found myfelf four hundred pounds a winner.

In the evening, when I returned to my inn, I thanked my landlord very complaifantly for his agreeable intimation, and told him, that I had not failed to improve his hint as he directed: but by his confused answers and inverted looks, I had great reason to believe, that he had lost more by this day's business, than he was likely to make up by short measure and bad wine in a twelvementh.

END of VOL. II.



I F E

AND

REAL ADVENTURES

O F

Hamilton Murray.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

VOL. III.



LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR; and Sold by J. Burd, Printer, in New-Street, Shoe-Lane.

MDCCLIX.

 $\ldots : {}_{-n} \to {}_{7}$

**

.



CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

Convert my cash into bank notes, and set out for London. — Am attacked on Hounslow-heath by a single highwayman, who robs me of my watch and money. — See him three days afterwards on Ludgate-hill. — Trace him to Piccadilly, and discover him to be my Edinburgh acquaintance, O Raily. page 1

CHAP. II.

Engage in partnership with Raily.—
Pick up money at the billiardtables.— He advises me to better my
Vol. III. A 2 for-

The CONTENTS.

fortune by matrimony.— Am charmed at the proposal, and lay down a plan of procedure.—Turn methodist, and frequent the chapels of L—g-A—e and M—f—ds. — Make very liberal donations, which procure me the esteem of the pastor.— Am admitted to a private conversation, during which I am entertained with a curious phænomenon, exhibited on the nerves of a rich old maid by electricity.

CHAP. III.

I attend chapel with fresh assiduity.—
Ingratiate myself into the good graces of the old lady, who invites me home with her to drink tea. — Am transported at the splendor of her apartment, and make some high encomiums on her beauty. — Begin a grand movement, but am frustrated by the unseasonable intrusion of her

.The Contints.

her factions. — She returns me the compliment of a visit at my house, where I accomplish part of my design by a singular method. — Am rendered the happiest of men.

CHAP. IV.

Impart the news of my success to Raily.—He is entranced at the prospects before us.—I invite the lady to Chelica in a four-wheeled chaise.—Propose matriage, which she consents to.—Make mention of a very pompous settlement, which produces a most shocking discovery.—Find the foundation of all my hopes to be grounded on a trissing amuity.—Break up the correspondence in high dudgeon.

CHAP. V.

Go home in a transport of rage, and communicate my ill success to Rai-

The CONTENTS.

ly.— He is forely vexed at the difappointment, and exhibits an inflance of his Irish fidelity by decamping with one hundred pounds of my money.—I meet my old clubmate the poet, and resolve to commence author.— He introduces me to an affembly of the brotherhood in the vicinity of Lincoln's-inn fields.— A strange discovery is made by one of the members, which lays the foundation for a curious pamphlet.—The importance of a flea discussed upon a new principle.

CHAP. VI.

I lay aside all thoughts of authorizing. — Go into the city, and am smitten with the charms of a young lady in the street. — Trace her home in extasses, and discover a bill over the door to let lodgings. — Find means to settle myself as a border in the samily.

The Conto Dn Tal

es natuali**c de la la presid**e de la composidad de la presidencia de la composidad de la co

Reforve to anufe myfelf in a coffee-house. — Join in conversation with two sea-officers, which occasions my embarking in a peritous adventure. — We enter the harbour of Flavre de Grace on the coast of France, and cut out a rich St. Domingo-man. — Arrive safely with our prize at Portsmouth, which we dispose of to good account. — My fortune is made by this expedition.

CHAP. XI.

Arrive in town. — Prepare a most elegant present for my mistress, and explore my way to the apothecary's. — I open my intentions to her guardian, and obtain his consent to our union. — My interesting interview with Sophy, wherein is exhibited a night-

The CONTENTS.

night-scene, worthy the imitation of all true lovers. — By an unexpected turn of Providence, I find myself master of twenty thousand pounds.—
Our nuptials are consummated with decency and order, and these memoirs are brought to a happy conclusion.

224



The CONTENTS:

mily. — Am agreeably furprised a second interview to meet with Dick Savage, who proves to be journeyman to my landlord. — He lets me into the characters of each individual. 100

CHAP. VII.

I grow in favour with the apothecary. — Buy a share in a private ship of war. — Harangue a club of shopkeepers on the nature of trade. — Accompany the ladies to Vauxhall. — What happened there.

CHAP. VIII.

Am horribly perplexed at my precarious fituation, and find myfelf more
and more in love.—Confult with my
friend Dick, who advises me to declare my passion.—Invite my mistress
to Hampton-court, and make a full
discovery of my heart.—Am blessed
with a mutual return of affection,
and

The CONTENTS.

and come home in a transport of unbounded joy.

CHAP. IX.

Confult with Dick on the speediest way to establish my fortune. - I propose the gaming-table, - He diffuades me from this rash step, and goes out surgeon in a privateer. - I assume the garb of a gentleman-commoner from Oxford, and introduce myfelf at a dutchess's house, - Have a run of luck, and prefent my mistress with a gold repeater. - Wager two hundred guineas on the recovery of a peeress from a burning fever, and lose it.-Tofs up with a young lord for one hundred pieces, and come off a loofer .- Decline in my fortune daily, and am ruined by the villany of Raily. - My affecting farewell with Sophy. - We interchange mutual vows of love. 169

CHAP.



THE

LIFE and ADVENTURES

HAMILTON MURRAY.

CHAP. I.

Convert my cash into bank notes, and fet out for London. — Am attacked on Hounslow-heath by a single highwayman, who robs me of my watch and money. — See him three days afterwards on Ludgate-hill. — Trace him to Piccadilly, and discover him to be my Edinburgh acquaintance, O Raily.

AVING turned my five gui-H neas to fo good account, I converted my cash into bank notes, and resolved to pass a few days Vol. III. B

at Windfor, in viewing the castle, the forest, and every thing curious, before I returned to London.

Here I stayed eight days, and was croffing Hounflow-heath in my way home, when I was attacked by a fingle highwayman well mounted, who pre-Rated a pistol to my breast, and in an In haccent demanded my money. had never been used to such unmannerly filetes as this before; for hitherto I was pillaged by the fawning flattery of a will dilembled tongue: but finding fuch a remarkable instance of plain dealing. I liked the fellow's humour fo well, that I complied with his request victions helitation, and told him at porting, that he was the honeitest man had hen for a long time. I was uncar terapie apprehenfions leit he should r de my pocket-book wherein was my we le cargo of bank notes, which made me give him fuch good words; but my gold watch and twenty guineas were fo much

much above his expectations from a fingle passenger, that he never recollected this article, but broke out in a transport of joy, 'You are the most complaisant young gentleman in England; and may the devil run round

the race-march with me, if I'll da-

" mage the hair of your head."

So faying, he wished me a good night, and rode off, leaving me very much startled at the tone of his voice. which I could not help thinking I was fomewhat acquainted with, as also his person and features, for he was above using any disguise, and it was yet broad day. All the way home I dwelt upon this affair with the greatest attention; and could I have perfuaded myself, that my old friend ORaily was in England. I could have fworn him to be the man. However, as I was not fure of this particular, I thought it best to take no notice of my fuspicion, and leave the discovery to time.

In a few days I was fully convinced. that my conjecture had not been false grounded: for happening to walk down Ludgate-hill, who should I fee on the other fide of the way, but the very man who had made fo free with my property on the common. At this discovery I turned gently over the ftreet, and keeping at a proper diftance, traced him from one place to another, till he arrived at Charing-Cross, from whence he struck up the Havmarket, and went into an inn in Piccadilly. I just gave him time to be feated in the tap-room, when I entered, and, under pretence of inquiring when the Oxford stage-coach fet out, took that opportunity to furvey his features effectually; when I foon found him to be my very individual friend and old acquaintance ORaily, who had fo decently conducted my juvenile excursions at Edinburgh.

Thorough-

Thoroughly convinced of the truth of this circumstance, I was at a loss how to proceed, as I had no intentions to hurt him, and yet was unwilling to lose my watch, for which I had a great value. At last I slipt over the way to a neighbouring coffee-house, and calling for a pint of wine and a private room, desired the boy to step to the opposite inn and tell such a gentleman, giving him a description of his person, that his company was wanted immediately at their house.

During the lad's absence, I was under uneasy apprehensions, less the should have known me again, or be filled with such fears of an ambuscade, as were natural to a person in his situation, and not come at all. But I was soon relieved from such thoughts by his entering the room, and demanding my business, for that he had not the happiness to be acquainted with me in the least. Yes, Sir, says I, you are very B 3 well

well acquainted with me, I am fure, else you would never have taken the freedom to borrow my watch and money so familiarly on the king's highway, as you did last Thursday evening: but as you might be in some strait at that juncture, I excuse your liberty; and only defire the favour of a re-imbursement directly, as I seldom care for giving long credit.

Hearing me go on in this strain, he turned pale, and would fain have made some equivocations, when I stopt him short by saying, Come, come, Mr. Raily, there is no necessity for evasions—I have no intention to hurt you on any account—and you may thank God, you have fallen into such hands; every body would not be thus disposed to sayour a man in your circumstances. Only restore my watch and money, and the affair proceeds no farther.

7

'I declare, Sir,' fays he, 'I am at a loss to recollect you. Pray affist my memory in this particular, that I may be so happy as to know the man to whom I owe so much. I hope you are too generous to take any advantage over a miserable man.—I cannot suspect such a thing, since your homourable treatment; and I beg to be favoured with the name of my bene-

favoured with the name of my benefactor.

When I found him in this passive mood, and that he behaved in all respects with tractability (for I must own I had not been without some fears of having my brains blown out by a pocket pistol upon the first word speaking) I asked him, if he had so soon forgot his old acquaintance Hamilton Murray, or the circumstance of rolling the inspired cobler in the sugar-barrel? At which he held up his hands in amazement, and had only power to cry out,

B 4 'By

By J—s! who would have thought it!

We came now to a pretty good understanding together. He returned me my watch and money upon the spot, all but five guineas he had expended; and upon my inquiring how long he had sollowed this course of life, he swore very heartily that this had been the first exploit of the kind he had ever committed; and as he was sensible, that another man might have encountered him as well as me, he was resolved to live honest for the future.

I was glad to hear of this, as I should otherwise have been horribly frightened to keep up any correspondence with him at all, and desired to be acquainted with the particulars of his fortune, since my leaving Scotland. On this he informed me, that, in consequence of his order to quit Edinburgh, he had come directly

directly by sea to London, where, not finding matters turn out according to expectation, he was foon reduced to great misery, when he found means to ingratiate himself so far into the good graces of a certain worthy matron, remarkable for her zeal in promoting a good understanding between the sexes. that by her industry he was recommended to a certain old merchant's widow of great fortune, who allowed him very handsomely for some time, till at last she was carried off by a dropsy. when he was once more brought to his shifts, and experienced the deficiency of cash to an extremity for the space of three months: at the end of which he was fummoned a fecond time to bufiness, in order to solace the wife of an asthmatic clergyman, who was by no means qualified to ingraft his spiritual admonitions in so prevailing a manner, as his comfortless helpmate required, till after six weeks hard duty he was B 5 dif

discharged from farther service, in order to make room for a journeyman staymaker, who had fitted on her jumps fo neatly, that he was employed in his Station ever after. In a word, he found the trade to ruinous to his conflitution. that, though he was of a very athletick habit, he was under a necessity to expend three parts in four of his income. in repairing the decays of nature by a plentiful infusion of asses milk, and after all was near going off lately in a confumption, which had induced him to have recourse to the highway for a fublistence, rather than breathe a living death for a few months, and at last quit the stage by a hectick.

I was much diverted at my companion's adventures, and asked him, why he did not rather chuse to go to service, than expose his life to danger, by so hazardous an occupation as that of a collector on the roads; when he

11

gave me to understand, that his chief motive for so doing was in order to raise a sum of money, sufficient to equip him in the character of a gentleman, when he made no question but that he could easily pick up some rich old woman in the nature of a wise, whose wants he was persectly acquainted with, and capable still of gratifying.



CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Engage in partnership with Raily.— Pick up money at the billiard-tables.— He advises me to better my fortune by matrimony.— Am charmed at the proposal, and lay down a plan of procedure.—Turn methodist, and frequent the chapels of L—g-A—e and M—f—ds. — Make very liberal donations, which procure me the esteem of the pastor.— Am admitted to a private conversation, during which I am entertained with a curious phænomenon, exhibited on the nerves of a rich old maid by electricity.

HAD not carried on an intimacy with my old companion many days after this discovery, before I began to like his conversation extremely. I sound a most effectual resource from all attacks of the spleen and low spirits in his

13

his company, as he was admirably turned for humour. He was also an exquisite judge of most games in fashion, by whose means I soon reaped considerable experience therein, as in about six weeks after our recommencing acquaintance, I was able to behave myfelf in most polite games with tolerable propriety.

In consequence of these advantages, as I then thought them, I considered him as a part of myself; and taking a set of elegant chambers, we determined to live from henceforth together, and endeavour, by an assiduous application and attendance to all the horse-races, cock-sights, and tennis-matches in and round London, to pick up a genteel independency. But the billiard-tables were the greatest recompence for our pains at the present, as we seldom missed being engaged every night, and as frequently carried off considerable profits. On these occasions, Raily being a most dexterous

dexterous practitioner, I always was employed in bets, while he feldom failed to get the upper-hand by his superior conduct and sagacity.

During these researches, I was surprifed to hear him accost me one day in this manner: 'I have been thinking, ' Hamilton, of a very ferious affair these ' fix weeks; and now I think it is full ' time to put it in practice. This scheme will never do for a couple of young fellows to live by for any continuance. I long to strike a bold stroke at once, that may put us above dependance. We are bleffed with talents that were furely calculated for much higher ' purposes, than to skulk about doing of nothing; and action, glorious action! must be embraced with viegour, and carried on with chearful-' ness and conduct, if we ever entertain a thought of arriving above the standard of simple Plebeians.

This

15

This unexpected falute made me conjecture he had still a hankering for the highway, and that he was going to propose something of that nature, by his mentioning the word action with fo much energy; but I was deceived in this opinion, when he went on: 'How would vou like to represent the place of your nativity in parliament, jump into the chair of a first rate state-pensioner, and have an opportunity to lead affes by the ears, as well as another man? As for my part, do ye fee, I should think it a very glorious thing to find half a fcore laced beaus of the best ' rank, cringing round me; while with 'a wave of my hand, or a toss of my head, I checked the impetuofity of the 4 animals, and obliged them to resume their proper distance. I say, how would you like these things?

I was so confounded to hear these words uttered in a serious mood, that I directly concluded he was run mad, and

and expected every minute to fee fome alarming fymptoms of lunacy, when he continued thus: * I fee plainly you either fancy I am diffracted, or elfe in a bantering humour; but you are " miftaken. Nothing is more easy to s accomplish than this very project in e question, as thus; You have already got fome money, which by a proper e application will produce more. When * you have got twenty or thirty thoufand pounds, you can purchase an etate in Scotland, which will entitle veu to rut in for a member in the House of Commons. This you can carry aife by the thrength of a little cash. When you have once arrived at this spoint, ways and means may be found to extend your prospects higher You will become a most accomplished ora-* tor; be dignified with some places of very great profit and truft, and in the courte of a few years, arrive at such simmenie treatures, that you can either find means to be honoured with a title,

title, or purchase it slily for a round

fum; in which case the office of

prime minister must inevitably fol-

low, and then you can have an op-

portunity to do for your friends, pu-

e nish your enemies, or shew them an

instance of a most christian charity.

by pardoning them with a good grace,

and be a man of the first importance

in the eyes of the three kingdoms.

This modest gradation from a young fellow of little more than five hundred pounds fortune, to the prime minister of Great Britain, was a grasp that seemed something calculated for my anticipating imagination; and, notwithstanding the romantickness of such a thought, I considered that some things, however uncommon, were nevertheless true, illustrating my opinion with the history of cardinal Wolsey, and others, who by the concurrence of the stars, and indefatigable application, had raised themselves to the highest honours; and could I only

I only get up the fum of twenty or thirty thousand pounds, I saw no reason, why I should not aim my bow as high as another man; let little paltry earthborn animals of restrained thoughts, and groveling conceptions, think what they would.

Os hominum sublime dedit, cælumque tueri Julit; et erectos ad fidera tollere vultus!

Having convinced myfelf of the practicableness of this affair, I turned to Raily, and very composedly asked him, how he proposed to fetch up the necessary sum to purchase the seat he mentioned; for that if we could once but arrive at this criss, I made no question or going through with the rest.

'Why now, this is doing fomething 'indeed,' favs Raily, 'you must un-

deritand, I have laid my plan upon a

· folid footing, such as cannot fail in

the nature of things to fucceed. It is founded

were?

of Hamilton Murray.

founded on a rock, my boy, and confequently must stand the most obstinate affaults of fortune. You must 4 know I have been a confiderable time employed in the most intricate ser-'vices of the fair fex, especially old ' maids and widows, and by this time can take upon me to aver, generally fpeaking, for there is no rule without an exception, that I am pretty well e acquainted with their humours, their 6 foibles, and their darling passions. 4 Yes, I know them, to the experience of my whole man. Now this is the point. Here you are a very clever ftriking young fellow, with shoulders 6 like Hercules, and legs truly Caledoiust turned of twenty, and formed for love: what the devil is to ftop you from making your addresses to some squinting old maid, or wi-6 dow, with a liquorish tooth, an overe grown fortune, and a short lease of 'mortality? D-n me, don't you fee the thing is already done, as it

were? What do you think drove me

to the highway, but this very argu-

ment? I'll be curst, if you see the

' matter as I do, but the business is as

good as done; and Sir Hamilton

' Murray is the word.'

Notwithstanding I ought to have known better, as I had so lately experienced the folly of building castles in the air; yet, this scheme appeared so feasible, and withal slattered my vanity so agreeably, that I suffered myself to be overcome by the delusion; and I gave my consent to his proposal in a transport of joy.

This article being fettled, there was a necessity to lay down a plan of operation, whereby we might come to the knowledge and acquaintance of a proper object, in order to begin business. The park, the play, and every place of public resort, was frequented day after day, to no manner of purpose; for, though

of HAMILTON MURRAY.

21

though we saw several, who by their dress appeared fit for the end proposed, yet, how to get at the speech of them, was the question.

We might have trifled on after this rate till doomsday, had not Raily taken notice, that this game at fast and loose was doing of nothing, and observed that the likeliest method to bring our views to bear would be to frequent fome church, where the ceremony of the hat, the fnuff-box, or telling the hour of the day by my watch, would be so many favourable opportunities for an introduction. I thought this argument extremely folid; and after a ferious consultation, we found that of all the places in England, Mr. W---d's chapel appeared the best adapted, as his female hearers where within a few degrees of lunacy already; and it was only putting on a more ferious phiz than common, breathing out a few deep aspirations, by way of sighs for fin.

fin, and you immediately gain their good opinion, which, with a little industry, could easily be converted into a liking, and all the world knows, that good liking is first cousin - german to love.

Accordingly I frequented the chapel in M—f—ds with great affiduity, dreffed very plain, but every thing of the best; and after hearing a tedious sermon interlarded with stories quite sorieign to the subject, had the honour to present into the pastor's own hands at the door-way, a couple of guineas by way of augmenting a contribution he had most piously set on foot, for the relief of our distressed brethren and sellow-labourers in the vineyard of Georgia.

This confiderable donation from a beginner did not fail to attract his attention, I was shortly after complimented with a seat in one of the front-galleries,

of HAMILTON MURRAY.

23

galleries, and had the address to pass in his opinion for a very rich Levant trader, whose name I assumed on the occasion..

I went on thus very successfully without missing a day of preaching, for the space of three weeks; in all which time, though I saw a number of females both young and old, yet none upon inquiry proved fit for the purposes of this expedition in point of fortune, being generally tradefmen's wives, citizen's daughters, and fervant-maids; and while their husbands, fathers and mafters, were lamenting the hardness and dullness of the times, and enforcing a more exact œconomy for the future, in order to make both ends meet; they, on the other hand, were so engrossed with spiritual concerns, and laying the foundation of a fet of alm's houses, by way of subscription, for the poor of the Lord, that no time, leifure, or thought, was or could be taken of any thing transitory.

I began to be impatient at this delay, as I had already made some considerable presents, in order to pave the way to a private conference with the divine, which I was told would be a very good step; when one day a very brilliant equipage drove into the court-yard, from whence an elderly lady alighted, and was ushered into the dwelling-house with the greatest attendance by the servants, and the most polite and mannerly complaifance in their master. This fight gave a new philup to my spirits. fulted Raily upon the occasion, who gave it as his real opinion, that this was certainly long-looked-for come at last; observing, that an old woman, and alone, was an infallible fign of her being disengaged; and that very few people kept equipages, who were not at least worth ten thousand pounds.

I was just of the same way of thinking, and resolved to introduce myself into her company the very next time

25

fhe came there, by consulting the minister on the obscurity of a very difficult Scripture text in the Revelation. This I thought I would not fail to do, while he was administring his ghostly admonitions to her in his closet, to which place I had frequent access.

The very next day I had an opportunity to put my delign in practice. The equipage appeared a fecond time. which imparted more joy to my transported heart than is conceivable; and just allowing her time enough to be feated, I knocked at the door, and defired to be introduced to the doctor. The fervant, who had already tasted my bounty on several occasions, opened the passage with the greatest civility, and ushered me into the closet, where I pretended great confusion at seeing the doctor engaged, and made a motion to withdraw; but he prevented this step by calling out, 'My worthy friend, Vol. III. ' don't

don't go away; pray step in, and I will give you a sight of some experimental philosophy, which no doubt will entertain you greatly.

which he observed was an electrical machine, very necessary for promoting the circulation of the blood in all persons whose minds were elevated above the concerns of this sinful world, and consequently could not take such care of their health as the careal man. 'In this case,' says he, 'it gives a four to the lazy spirits, new braces the nerves, and invigorates and 'enlivens the whole fabrick.'

While I was admiring this wonderfill ellect of the fagacity of man in producing electrotary fire, he very galhandy placed the lady in an armed chair, and, with his own hands, fet her feet upon a fort of cushion, at the same time putting

putting a rod of metal into her hands. which, he said, must be a means of conveying the shock upon the body. 'I oprofess Sir,' says she, 'though I have sone through this operation so often, I cannot help being shocked immodee rately at your folemnity; there is fomething fo shocking in a person's being shocked so frequently, with the

repetition of the word shock, that it

6 shocks one most fearfully, and I am

at this juncture now actually most

'shockingly frightened.'

I believe it would have been absolutely impossible for me to have remained another minute without displaying evident tokens of risibility at this first speech of my intended bride, had not the doctor called off my attention. by begging me to give the wheel a few turns round, in order to raise the elementary heat by friction. This office I flattered myself I performed pretty dexte-

dexteroully; for in a moment he bid his patient only touch the machine, and it produced a concussion of her whole frame. She repeated this several times, till her ghostly director was pleased to cry out, * satis bene placito.'

On which I took the feat, and went through a course of very alarming operations, to the great mirth of the lady, who had now recovered her spirits to a miracle, and rallied me very agreeably on my awkward fearfulness, observing, that I must be very little acquainted with the nature of shocks, to be shocked at fo trifling a beginning; while the doctor took occasion to infinuate, that this was one of those wonderful works of nature, which was too nice for our finite conceptions to comprehend sufficiently, but that we should have an ample scope of a never-ending eternity to explore the most noble productions of God, after our imprisoned fouls **Chould**

子田 ·· とうず ド a · litelace con · · · · · ·

hould have disengaged themselves from he setters of mortality, and ascended he mansions of the saints above.

So faying, we all three went out inging of pfalms, to the infinite furprise of my friend Raily, who had stationed nimself within hearing, with a view of econnoitring the old lady, and who pok us for so many inhabitants of Bedlam.



C 3 CHAP.

CHAP. III.

I attend chapel with fresh assiduity.—
Ingratiate myself into the good graces of the old lady, who invites me home with her to drink tea. — Am transported at the splendor of her apartment, and make some high encomiums on her beauty. — Begin a grand movement, but am frustrated by the unseasonable intrusion of her sootman. — She returns me the compliment of a visit at my house, where I accomplish part of my design by a singular method. — Am rendered the happiest of men.

WHEN we had got into the fields, in which most of our consultations were exhibited, Raily asked me what the devil was the matter we came out braying like so many jack-asses? On which I told him, we were singing of psalms.

⁴ Pfalms!

'Pfalms!' fays he, 'do you call that finging of plalms? I am fure it was more like the lamentations of ' Hob in the Well than church-music. For my part, I began to think the doctor had turned your brains in good earnest, and was preparing to call him to an account for depriving the com-" monwealth of a very able statesman." This observation made us. quite merry. I related the circumstances of the closet conference, verbatim: at which laughed heartily, and observed, we were in a fair way of doing bufiness by that very transaction.

In order to carry on our projects the better, it was thought necessary to take a footman in livery directly, and also have lodgings in the city; but upon fecond thoughts, a house would do much better, in order to keep up appearances, and be secured from the prying eyes of an inquisitive family, who might, perhaps, entertain fome thoughts which

were not proper to be indulged at this juncture. With this view, we pitched upon a very fmall, but neat box, ready furnished, not far from the centre of the city, which I found means to enter upon immediately.

There was still another article wanting which was very material. This was no other than some semale in the house who should pass for a very near relation, which Raily undertook to furnish me with, and at the same time one who knew how to behave herself to the best advantage. The person who was to supply the place of my sister on this occation, was a girl of the town, whom my companion had known a long time, and could sham modesty to a miracle.

All this time I was not idle, but took care to attend the chapel as much as ever, and never failed to do my duty at the wheel, whenever the old lady was disposed to be electrified; by which means

33

means I infinuated myfelf so far into her confidence and favour, that she one day invited me home with her to drink tea. Glad of this lucky opportunity, by which I thought my business as good as done, I affented to her obliging offer with vast joy, and had the pleasure to be carried home with her in her chariot.

All the way going along, I took occasion every now and then to observe, that Mr. W--d was certainly an immediate gift from heaven, in order to draw mankind into the true thoroughfare of faving-grace. His bounty, his unparalleled charity, were my universal theme: and that it was no small addition to his happiness, to be attended by so worthy, God-fearing, and agreeable a lady as I then had the honour to be in company with, which, I took notice, was fuch an encouragement to people of lower character in life, that it made C 5 his

his admonitions and doctrine be received and digested with tenfold energy.

This did not fail to have a most happy effect. I found the epithet 'agree-able' tickled her darling passion exceedingly; and she, in return for my compliment, gave me to understand, that it was a very pleasing sight to all good followers of the righteous to see a youth of my years so admirably captivated with the lustre of divine things; and, for her part, she had conceived a very great liking to my morals, ever since her first seeing me in the closet.

I was transported at these words, and was in the midst of a very eloquent harangue, setting forth the power of beauty, seasoned with womanhood, and enlarged by experience, which, I said, could not fail to render her the delight of the man who should be so happy as to engage her attention, instead of the fally, trisling allurements of a baby girl, which



35

which none but boys, fools, and madmen could be taken with, when we stopt at a large pair of gates, and I was obliged to break off my discourse for that time, in order to hand my partner out of the chariot, which I did in a very gallant manner.

But if I was in raptures before, I was ten times more so at finding myself ushered into a very sumptuous and elegant apartment by a footman in livery, who shortly after brought in the teaequipage, and retired.

I now thought I was a made man indeed. I had just taken a look of the house, and found it was a very large one in a capital street; and as to certain semales, which I saw in the several apartments as I went up stairs, I conjectured they must certainly be so many upper-servants, or companions to the lady.

Elated

Elated at these symptoms of surrounding grandeur, I fet her down in my opinion as a first rate fortune, and refolved to cultivate the present minutes to the best advantage. With this thought I took the opportunity of our being alone during the tea, to re-affume the fequel of my oration in the coach by breaking out with, Yes, madam, the man who shall be so happy as to fecure the affections of fo fine a lady, need give himself no farther trouble about worldly affairs. He may then look round without envy upon the greatest monarchs upon earth, and make good the old proverb, "I have " one, part the rest among you." Here he may have beauty without paint, modesty without affectation, humility without pride, love without measure, and godliness without superstition. Can any thing be more ravishing, more transporting, or more delightful, than for a man to be aided in his refearches by fo pious and fo learned a partner?

37

partner? Here he has a fure guide to the paths of happiness, and a pleasing check to the sallies of youth; and when his spirit is tired with the ardors attending these operations of his duty with regard to things spiritual, he may then unbend his fatigued mind from such studies, by tasting in the arms of the sinest woman in the world, those transporting pleasures which carnal minds can have no idea of, and none but the chosen few are permitted to know.

Go dear Sir,' replied the lady, highly pleased with what I had said, 'you are the best bred young gentleman I ever saw, and were I disposed to vasinity, should actually think you had discovered something extraordinary about my person to occasion these encomiums; but as I am not so self-conceited, must conclude you are under some mistake, in thus stattering a

' woman upwards of thirty-five.'

Twenty-

Twenty - five you mean, Madam, or rather twenty - one, replied I. Is that native bloom, which by its transparent luftre shines so conspicuous over your angelical countenance, a denomination of thirty-five? No, no, dear Madam, give me leave to affure you, there must be a very great error in fuch calculation. In these cases, nature is the best index, who plainly points out to every spectator, that you . are very far on this fide thirty. It'is only being bleffed with a glance of those lovely eyes, whose humid ravs excel the fun in radiance, and those delicious lips, whose very touch might transport a hermit to distraction, to convince us of the truth of this obfervation.

Having expressed myself in this manner, I got up, and begging parden for my boldness, hoped she would attribute it to my uncommon zeal for her person,

of HAMILTON MURRAY.

39

person, and most humbly implored her to be fo gracious as to indulge me in the happiness of a chaste salute, that so I might convince myself of the reality of what my eyes had never been fo happy as to have seen before. So saying, I ravished a kiss from her once ruddy lips, which I repeated fo often, that the old lady's breath began to beat an alarm to yet untasted raptures very fenfibly, and I do not know how fat we might have loft ourselves in these pleasing tumults of the senses, had not we been aroused from carrying matters to greater maturity by the found of her footman's tread upon the stairs, who very unfeafonably paid us a visit, in order to replenish the tea-kettle.

This interruption put a final stop to any farther operations for that night. I had worked myself up into so great a fermentation of spirits, by placing my eye upon some silver plate on a sideboard,

board, that I might have done great things at fuch a juncture; but being once recovered from this reverie, I could not for the foul of me go through with it again on any account. As to my partner, she pretended great confusion at my freedoms; but I found means to pacify her by protesting, he would be less than man who could fland the artillery of her fair eyes, and not be ftruck with the most transporting fensations. An observation of this nature could not fail to make my peace in a minute: she affumed a most chearful behaviour, and rendered herself so ridiculous by affecting the childish humours of fifteen, that I could scarce refrain from laughing.

I now thought, that, confidering it was my first visit, I ought to be satisfied with the advances I had made, and it would be decent to withdraw, which I soon after did; but not before I had obtained

obtained her promise to favour me with her delightful company the next evening, when I observed my sister would be very much delighted to find herself blessed with the conversation of so accomplished and amiable a young lady.

When I went home, and imparted the news of this conversation to Raily. and that I had been within an ace of giving the old woman a very convincing mark of my affection, he damned the footman very cordially; but comforted himself for this unavoidable accident, by crying out, 'Tip her the faddle, d-n me, tip her the faddle. By the 6 lord Harry! it is the only thing in the world to trip up her heels decently once or fo, and you gain her heart for ever. Didn't I say, you would be a parliament-man presently? By J-s! 'I begin to have some very promising hopes of acting myself the part of under-treasurer to the Exchequer: · 01

O! how I should like to be fingering the shiners!

I then told him, that she was to pay me a visit on the morrow evening; and in order to make the better figure, I went to a filver-finith, and got the use of a very handsome service of gadrooned plate, for which I left the value and a large consideration. Being furnished out in every respect, I waited very impatiently for her arrival, and in due time was relieved from my anxiety by her coach stopping at my door; on which, with the greatest agility, I rushed down stairs, and handed my visitor so adroitly into a lower parlour, that I perceived my manner of proceeding had charmed her not a little.

My fifter now came in and faluted her very prettily; observing, that she could not be sufficiently thankful for the happiness of this mark of so fine a lady's lady's regard to her brother, in honouring his house with her presence,
and begged to be numbered among
those happy people whom she favoured
with the blessings of her friendship, from
which there must certainly flow very
many advantages. This speech far surpassed my hopes, and did not fail to
answer the purpose exceedingly. The
old lady made her a most gracious
answer, and the tea and wit slew about
ferprisingly.

I was in a great dilemma how to get my pretended fifter out of the room, that I might be at liberty to improve the minutes to the best advantage; but I needed not have been so fearful, for the dear girl knew her business better than that came to: for, after begging million of pardons for the rudeness of leaving a lady she honoured so much, pleaded an absolute pre-engagement, which there could be no avoiding, and

using abundance of apologies, and sewerely chiding me for my neglect in not giving her timely notice of this honour, left the room soon after.

This was doing of business to some purpose. I approached my visitor with eagerness, and began to exhibit such flowers of love-rhetorick as set her blood in a most pleasurable circulation. These fort of disorders were so new to her, that she was absolutely at a loss for their meaning, otherwise than from the good effects of electricity, which naturally led her to talk of Mr. W——d's machine.

I now thought this a very lucky opportunity to effect my purpose; and with this view I told her, that I did not at all approve of giving the human conditution such unnatural shocks as he every day practised upon his patients; that repetitions of such kind wore

45

wore out the elastick springiness of the fibres, and relaxed the nerves of the brain, even to a degree of lunacy: whereas I had a far nobler method of operation for the cure of low spirits, which, without distressing the folids, or overpowering the human fabrick with violence, imparted all the affiftance that could be expected from the most experienced physician, and at the same time transported the soul of the patient with fuch extatic pleasures as were incomprehenfible to any one who never had made trial of the powerful wonders of its influence. It chears the spirits, says I, brightens up the senses, comforts the brain and nerves, and enlivens the understanding to comprehend strange mys-It furnishes the stomach with a most incredible digestion, enriches the memory with the faculties of retention in a wonderful manner, even so as to be continually pondering upon its ocult qualities, and longing for a return of its appli-

application, and, by its never-failing energy, fets the whole fluids in a flatt of fermentation. And whereas other machines must be confined to closes for their bulk, this on the contrary is so fizeable that it is every day carried with ease about the person; and what is the best recommendation in the world, it is the immediate gift of heaven. But though it is common to all men, yet it is not every one who knows how to prepare it for action in a satisfactory manner.

- Bless me, Sir,' says my visitor, this is a very wonderful machine you speak of: I profess I never yet heard of the like, and should be glad to be electrified with such a powerful apparatus.'
- 'Madam,' faid I, 'I will not fail to 'obey your commands prefently: you 'need be under no apprehension as to 'its effects; it runs much upon the

- fame principles with the doctor's, only
- with this difference, that whereas his
- · method is attended with a most dis-
- agreeable shock to the body, this of
- 'mine is accompanied with a fensation
- fo delightful, that it will be absolutely
- impossible for you to recollect your
- fituation for a few feconds of time.
- Lord! Sir,' faid she, 'produce' this mighty machine you talk of; I am in raptures at its admirable qualities, and foresee, I shall have frequent
- use for so powerful a specifick to my
- conflitution.

I was willing to work up her conceit of it to the highest, in order to cut off all retreat upon its production, and also to give time to my own fancy to bring the engine to its proper bearance, and proceeded thus: 'Well might the worthy doctor launch out into the praises of electricity, and the power-

48

ful laws of friction! it is the grand movement of nature; the first principle of perpetual motion; it replenishes the world with living creatures of every denomination, and gives mortals a prospect of the joys of immortality. The seas are full of its wonders, the air of its miracles, and every bush, twig, branch, leaf, and shamble sings aloud the praises of its infinite perfection.

I was going on thus at a wonderful rate, when her impatience was raised so high, that nothing would serve her turn but to be electrified directly; on which I was obliged to leave off my encomiums, to enhance her belief of it by ocular demonstration, and the testimony and evidence of the sweetest of the five senses. This I did so effectually before we parted, that she confessed in a kind of extatic consustant, she had never been so agreeably electrified in her life time;

IAMILTON MURRAY.

49

id me very feverely for taking vantage over her credulity, which nan had done before.

is very much disposed to believe otestations in that article to be e, as I had all the reason in the to flatter myself, I had electrimaid, though somewhat of the and also, by the experiment, id the doctor of one of his most rable and best patients.



.. III. D CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Impart the news of my success to Raily.—He is entranced at the prospects before us.—I invite the lady to Chelsea in a four-wheeled chaise.—Propose marriage, which she consents to.—Make mention of a very pompous settlement, which produces a most shocking discovery.—Find the foundation of all my hopes to be grounded on a trisling annuity.—Break up the correspondence in high dudgeon.

odown Raily, and acquainted him, that I had very happily brought matters to bear beyond my most fanguine expectations; that, under the appearance of braceing my visitor's nerves by electricity, I had found means to secure her affections in the most prevailing manner, by first braceing and then relaxing my own, and that

that I intended to marry her in a few hays. He was almost distracted with oy at these tidings, applauded my method of procedure to the skies, and obferved, that fuch talents as mine could not fail to render me the wonder of the age I lived in, when I should have an opportunity to dispense their lustre to mankind in a more exalted fphere.

To fay the truth, I began to have a wonderful opinion of my own fagacity and conduct fince the completion of this affair. I thought no woman could stand against the force of my attacks, and with great pleasure indulged myself in the contemplation of the golden prospects before me.

I will no fooner, faid I, be in the actual possession of this money, which, moderately speaking, cannot be less than thirty thousand pounds, than I will finish what my claffical education has begun. I will study the customs, manners, and

constitution of my own country with great accuracy, that I may be the better enabled to judge of the state of our affairs, with regard to our political connections on the continent. I will get just as much insight into the law, as to enable me to ward off the fraudulent infinuations of sharpers; and while I am accomplishing myself in the necesfary qualifications of a gentleman, can ferve my country in the character of a justice of the peace upon occasion. As to languages, I am pretty well veried in them. Latin I have at my fingers ends; Greek I am tolerably acquainted with, and French is my darling amusement: not from any affection to the country, but because I think it the most polite and flowery language in christendom. Being furnished with all these necessary acquirements, I will then make the grand tour. I will contract a correipondence at most of the courts of Europe, to gain the more infight into the nature and system of politicks. I will examine

53

of Hamilton Murray.

examine every thing curious abroad, that I may be the better qualified to judge, as to the veracity of our authors, who have treated of those things. During my progress through Italy, I will study the arts with great assiduity, that I may no longer be a dupe to a fet of scoundrels, by throwing away my money to acquire the title of a virtuoso. take care to furnish myself with such original curiofities, as shall not fail to establish my reputation for taste on my arrival in old England. By this time. my wife will be dead; as what the devil should a woman of her years do out of heaven fo long. This will be a most happy releasement. I will fall in love with and marry fome lady of the first quality, by whose influence I shall be represented to his Majesty as a young gentleman of the most natural and acquired qualifications to serve my country in an exalted flation. I shall be caressed at court; my company and conversation will be looked upon as the highest favour.

 D_3

by the prime of the land; and I shall be courted by the wife, the great, the rich and opulent, as a most uncommon genius. I will increase in wisdom as in years; and by that time I get to the age of forty, shall be deemed the sittest person in England to be trusted with the administration of affairs under eur most gracious Sovereign.

Why now, faid Raily, who had listened to these reveries with great attention, 'why now, this is what I have • been aiming at all this time. You pretended to laugh at my ladder of ' ascension; but can any thing be more · plain and practicable? Let us go on fair and foftly --- no more to our hearts than we can decently kick off with our heels. Yes, yes, I find we ' are made men, and our business is ' three parts done; and for why? han't we already entered upon possession? and that you know is three points of the law. Only lay hands upon 5 the

of Hamilton Murray.

55

the rhino, and we can then proceed as we please.'

In consequence of this it was refolved, that I should fulfil my engagements as to visiting the lady next day, and lay down proposals of marriage on the carpet forthwith: but upon fecond thoughts it was reckoned more expedient to provide myself with a li-, cence at Doctors Commons; and, for fear of some other unlucky intrusion, bespeak her company to some of the neighbouring villages, such as Chelsea, Battersea, or Wandsworth, to dinner on the following day, where I could have an opportunity to found the depth of her finances, and the feelings of her pulse the more effectually.

Accordingly it was thought proper to stay away all that day, in order to whet her impatience the better for a second interview; but bespeak her company to the foregoing pleasurable excursion

cursion on the morrow, where I would do myfelf the honour to attend her in a four-wheeled chaife. This I immediately performed by detaching my footman with a very elegant billet, fetting forth my unhappiness in being deprived of the transporting pleasure of her company for fo long an age, and begging her confent to my request of attending her to Cheffea the next morning. To this I received a most satisfactory answer, intimating her confent to my proposals, and that she would be ready by one; assuring me withal, that nothing but the exceeding defire she had to hear the doctor upon a favourite text, should have moved her to appoint so late an hour; for, saving the unspeakable delight which was conveyed to her foul by the healing words of that chosen minister, she had never experienced fuch heavenly feelings as when in my company.

Transported at this fresh instance of her approbation, by which I found my last night's transaction had been taken

of Hamilton Murray.

57

in good part, I resolved to throw off the saint altogether, and next morning put on a most brilliant dress, assisted by the considence and presumption of a saint rate beau, which I thought could not sail to render my conversation tenfold agreeable.

When I went out, I left Raily fully persuaded of my bringing matters to a happy conclusion before I came back: for at my departure I heard him cry, A very frolicksome old woman this,

by J—s; but all's one for that: be fure to tip her the faddle.

I had ordered my servant to bring the chaise to Buckingham-gate, whither we soon after arrived in a hackneycoach; and as I did not choose to be overheard, I sent the fellow home again. about his business.

After expatiating on her great condescention in honouring me with her agreeable company in this jaunt, I took D 5 occa-

occasion to assume the business in hand by addressing her thus:

You cannot imagine, Madam, the pleasures I feel in being so near the only lady in the world, for whom I could ever entertain the least favourable idea. Yes, before I had the good fortune to explore the mafterpiece of nature in the contemplation of your wonderful perfections, I may fafely fay, without derogating from veracity, that all the fex were indifferent to me: but no sooner did chance, or rather I have reason to say propitious fortune, throw me in your way, and I had an opportunity to experience to a reality what my most sanguine imagination could never have suggested, then, indeed, the case was greatly altered! I no longer beheld woman with indifference; a strange and uncommon ardour possessed my spirits; my blood was thrilled to extafy with the most ravithing delights, and I found, in four

of Hamilton Murray.

59

of myself, that my heart, hitherto unestrained as air, was now a close prioners and, being tired of its former naster, has taken refuge in your angeical bosom. from whence I have no sopes of recovering it. unless I should e so happy as to engage your mutual ctura of love. That this is my fituaion, I have no longer reason to doubt ; er, upon your least approach, an uniersal tremor seizes me, alternate floods of joy, grief, hope and despair fill my reast in a vicissitude of alarming perurbations; and I am quickly convinced o my woeful experience, that, without ou. I must be for ever miserable.-Tow. dear Madam, as the case stands, nd in confideration that the happiness r misery of a fellow-creature is highly nterested by your answer, will you be o condescending as to intimate your nind on this occasion? Have I reason hope you will favour my attachment marriage? Can I indulge myself in he delightful prospect of spending my future

future days in the company of so amiable a lady? If your answer should prove agreeable to my wishes, in the name of heaven impart it somehow by a sign, a nod, or some secret intimation of consenting love, lest my grateful heart, taking the alarm at the propitious accent of your tongue, should communicate the joyful tidings too suddenly to my enraptured soul, which, being strung to the highest verge of extasy, might take that opportunity to overleap the bounds of mortality, and lay me dead at your feet.

Having finished this unnatural rapsody, which had almost exhausted my breath, I had reason to believe my loving partner was indeed under some apprehensions of overpowering my spirits by a too hasty declaration in my behalf, for she only favoured me with a smile and a contenting nod.

Being satisfied in this interesting point, I assumed a most chearful behaviour,

of Hamilton Murray. 61

aviour, talked to her as to a person who as to be my wife that very night, and roduced the licence accordingly. She as very far from being displeased at its instance of my celerity; and gave to know I was the only man in the world, who had ever made an immedian upon her heart.

Was ever any thing so transporting? furveyed the numerous equipages pasing to and fro with abundance of commpt, concluding I should soon have in my power to shew the world one r superior to any of them, and alighting at the best house of entertainment the place, called up the master, and spoke an elegant dinner.

* Thirty thousand pounds.* But that I might communicate this joyful news to my throbbing heart, without deviating from good manners, I began to talk of her settlement in very pompous strains.

I will, Madam, fays I, fo foon as I can confult my lawyer, draw up a fettlement entitling you to a provision of eight hundred a year. I intend this shall issue out of a very considerable estate I have lately purchased in Derbyshire; for, though I am originally a Scottman, and have great possessions there, yet, by my mother's side, I am allied to the most eminent families in England.

Then, as the notion of pin-money still reigns among the polite, I intend to present you with the additional sum of two-hundred more per annum: for I would by no means have my dearest love imagine or suppose, that the name of

• . . • .

of Hamilton Murray.

63 of a wife shall be the least restraint from the inclulgence of all those diver-

fions and amusements which she enjoyed while the attracted the longing eyes of mankind, when under the charader of a most blooming milits

to the official of the control of the

I was going on thus very gallantly in appropriating such and such lands and cattle, interspersed through my estates in Lincolnshire. Staffordshire. Cornwal, and Buckinghamshire, all which I intended to make Raily jumble together upon parchment in the way of a fettlement, and under the appearance of a lawyer, for and towards her fole use and convenience; when she gave a Well confiderable check to my prothedings by crying out, Lord! my "deat Sir, what shall I do with these hundreds and thousands you speak of? It is enough for me, that I possess Your love and a decent maintenance, without being burdened with all these loads of gold you mention. • always

* always hitherto been content with the
* moderate annuity of one hundred and
6 fifty pounds, and have boarded and
6 lodged for these seven years in the
6 same worthy family I live now with,
6 where I have every thing heart can
6 wish or eye desire, with the use of
6 either coach or chariot upon occasion;
6 so what great need can I have for all
6 these settlements you talk of? No,
6 no, any thing will content me, and,
6 as I observed before, your love is

I was so confounded at hearing her talk of boarding in anothers house, as I had taken it for granted, the whole had been her own property, that a cold damp sweat bedewed my face at so unexpected a diminution of my fortune; but as the little she had as yet said, did not sufficiently prove what my sears suggested, I re-assumed my spirits, and went on: But then, Madam, what shall we do with the thirty thour fand

Gio∰cient 1

fand pounds? Do you think I can be capable of acting a mean part by a lady whom I honour so much, and who is to bring me so much money? Touch no more upon that string, dear Lady, I do beseech you. No, no, be assured the matter must not be as you say, for my love will not suffer it.

'What thirty thousand pounds, Sir,' said she in strange consusion, 'are 'you speaking of? I know of no such 'sum, unless it is in your own possession.'

No, Madam? replied I, why, the thirty or forty thousand pounds bankflock, or India bonds in your cabinet—what else do you think I could mean? Do you imagine, I will accept of such a sum without an equivalent? forbid it heavens! and ye winged inhabitants of the groves, cherup out your detestation, in the most croaking strains, if I am consenting to it. No, no, Madam,

I am a man of too nice honour to be guilty of so mean a thing. But you are trying me all this time; and it is a good thought; a lucky stroke of humour in such cases comes in with a double relish; and I am rejoyced to see you are so merrily disposed; it is a good figure.

" I am afraid, Sir,' fays the, burfting into tears, " it is a bad fign to one e of us. You have built your hopes · enca my imaginary fortune, and I * me veer well dissembled love; but "I now find, we are both woefully deecertai: for all my dependance con-" in an annuity for life of one · haminal and fifty pounds per annum, which I lodge and board mywill to my fatisfaction in the family were ne in, and as I have been in long in the house, am indulged with the use of every thing as if it was my own: but now there is an end and my flattering dreams of bills .Yand

HAMILTON MURRAY. 67

Had the devil appeared before my eyes at this juncture upon the point of a broomstick, or upon the point of any thing elfe, or immediate annihilation, in the form of a death-warrant, it could not have imparted more shocking senfations than these words conveyed thro' my whole vital frame. To fee an end to all my gay prospects in one moment, was a most intolerable stroke; and yet no more than I deserved for carrying matters thus far, without having better grounds for my hope, than what my anticipating fancy had fuggested. I stamped, raved, and fwore alternately, and with a horrible visage demanded to know in a thundering tone, what business she had to ride in a chariot to deceive young fellows with an outfide glare of pomp, when she very well knew she had not fufficiency to support it? and added, that as I had been some scores of pounds out of pocket by this exploit, I politive ly expected to be re-imburfed.

" And who shall re-imburse me,' faid te in a transport of tears, ' who shall " re-imburse me for my precious honour, " fallen a facrifice to the villany of be-" traying man?"

This question brought me to myself in an instant. I saw it was not only men but highly ungenerous to treat ET WOTER 10; IET more one whom I had a ready to grossly deceived: fo I eren resolved to put the best face upon the matter possible, and come off as wal as I could. With this intent I rumed towards her, and with a fmiling commence told her, we had sufficient-Ir corrured each other; that I had set on foot this altercation on purpole to with the depth of her love, which I was faitsfied must be very great, fince fince she had not resented what would have been a temptation for any other woman to revenge to the uttermost; and, in a word, I plyed my part so well, that, by the influence of a few kisses, I set all to rights again; and by the time that dinner came upon the table, we had reduced ourselves to a tolerable composure.

All this interval I was debating within my mind, whether, as matters were circumstanced, I had not even better put up with the old lady, rather than let the affair drop and produce nothing. I considered, her annuity of one hundred and sifty pounds would support me decently; and, as I had been so fruit-lessly engaged in the pursuit of a public office, suppose I should look upon her in the light of a private office, and her income as my salary? where was the mighty difference? Had not I better have the command of a good so-ciable

make old woman, and be mafter of my come time, than be tied down to the confinement of to many hours in the day to a famp-office, or a place of the like kind i But then again, as I was in no immediate want, what a gaul it must be some to put up with a trifling annaire, and sa old woman, when I might be happy in the love of fome summy lady of beauty, birth, and fornune? What! whifpered I to myfelf, final The the tree to an old woman's - in in 1 Tie Heaven forefend! Belies a vis fir from impossible, conitemat in antire complexion, but I munic lime time or other be in love in good exercit, or have an opportunity n mass my fortune in a pleafing manmer. mit then fluth a thumbling block ni ne ni nne wiv, would fet me mid; is I was resilved to keep her in spins mill got her miny borne, and never in her man.

of Hamilton Murray? 71

Full of this thought, I kept up my good humour as high as possible; and paying for the dinner, which I resolved should be the last in her company, I handed her into the chaise; and, pretending to have dropped the licence out of my pocket, carried her safe to London, where I took my leave of her very lovingly, after having promised to call early the next morning in order to sulfil my promise of marriage.



CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Go home in a transport of rage, and communicate my ill fuccess to Raiby .- He is forely vexed at the difappointment, and exhibits an instance of his Irish fidelity by decumping with one hundred pounds of me money. - I meet my old clubmare the poet, and refolve to commence suchor. - He introduces me m in Membly of the brotherhood in the recent of Lincoln's-inn fields.-A truce discovery is made by one or the members, which lays the foundimen for a curious pamphlet.—The importance of a flex discussed upon a jew tributik.

A II the way going home I was exculturely chargeined at the thought man, after all the time and expence which had attended this project, and the diagrams hopes I had entertained of making

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 73 making my fortune thereby, the affair should come to nothing at last.

I had hardly entered within doors, before Raily, full of the pleasing hopes of hearing that our marriage was over by this time, and the fum and extent of her fortune, addressed me with, 'Well, Sir Hamilton, how d'ye like your purchase? Don't you think your bride a match for you at the old 'game? Yes, yes, I warrant her; let e her alone for that. Well! and was he not vaftly low-spirited the whole day, and continually wishing for the other stroke from your electric machine! But, fair and easy now, bov! She must experience in her turn a 'little fluctuation of fortune, and study ' times and seasons, d'ye see. Well, ' you remember our agreement, ten per cent you know - not a doit too much for the cares and pains, the anxious 'days and sleepless nights I have had on this occasion. - Let me see- ay, Vol. III. E f thirty

thirty thousand pounds, at ten per cent, make just three thousand to your very humble servant.—Well, if I don't upon the strength of such a bottom——'

He was going on at a violent rate in appropriating fuch and fuch fums of this imaginary acquisition, to their several uses, when I thought proper to put a stop to his career a little, by oblierving we were not married.

At this unwelcome tidings he started back in manifest consusion; and staring me in the sace, exclaimed with great carnestness, 'Not married! d'ye say? 'the devil you an't!' Then, after a little pause, 'Well, but — what — you 'have put it off till to-morrow then, 'have you?' I replied, I was so far from having any intention of marrying her to-morrow, that I should give mystelf no farther trouble about the matter, as she was an impostor, and had no fortune.

ery likely story this, indeed,"
ie, 'to tell me a cock' and a
pry, about an impostor, and
ot, when I saw her but yesterher chariot and bays, and a
otman behind! So, now you
rought matters to a criss, you
to so me off with some such
sive hundred pieces, whereas
make it appear, look ye, that
iginal agreement was ten per
or the whole tote."

d not help laughing at this exiry instance of his modesty, and n a detail of the whole partiat which he was lost in amazebut after a little recollection, I to marry her himself, by way ige, and dispose of her annuity; stock-broker at seven years e, which, says he, will be a pretl of money in my pocket.

E 2

This

This ungenerous proposal shocked me. I asked him, if he would make no scruple to ruin an innocent woman by leaving her a prey to indigence and want, while he rioted away her fortune at a brothel, or a gaming-table? Not as she has proved an impostor, replied he quite seriously; hang all impostors, fay I, I hate them as I hate the devil. Then, says I, I am asraid you and I must be ranked among that number: for, what else are we ourselves but the most egregious of impostors?

But this was so far from having any effect on my modest companion, that he still instited upon converting the old woman into a thousand pounds; observing, that there was a deal of difference between a young fellow, making his fortune by an honourable stroke of sinesse, and an old woman deceiving a man into a marriage, with no other view than to indulge the most base and groveling appetite.

Let

of Hamilton Murray.

77

Let that be as it would. I could not think of conniving at fo barbarous an action, even had the annuity been transferable at the bank, which was a circumfrance that I was by no means affured of: and asked him what we should do with our ready furnished house, hinting, that very probably, when once she came to find I had deceived her, she would make application to her ghostly director, and endeavour to profecute me for a rape. In consequence of this fuggestion, I paid off my arrears of rent, delivered the keys of my new appartments to the owner, and removed directly to my old lodgings in the Temple.

But I had not been here three days, before my faithful friend Raily, whose head was continually plotting some new scheme, finding this last adventure had discouraged me from any farther attempts of the like nature, took the opportunity of my sending him to my

E 3 bankers

bankers in Lombard-street to go off with his trust, amounting to one hundred pounds; but, by way of satisfaction for this friendly incroachment upon my substance, he thought proper to send me a line, with a request to make myself as easy as possible; for that, now he was master of a little cash, he was in hopes to give me a satisfactory account of my money in a short time, having a design in his head to take a small crusse in the latitude of a publican's sat widow, who was reckoned worth ten thousand pounds.

Unsatisfactory as this consolation was, I was nevertheless forced to put up with it for want of a better; but firmly resolving, that if kind chance once more should throw me in his way, I would do all in my power to facilitate his progress to Tyburn, as a recompence for his complicated villanies.

Finding

Finding my fortune reduced confiderably by this unexpected blow, I refolved to curtail all fuperfluous expences, and, as I faw no other method at present, even to turn my thoughts to authorizing, and endeavour to oblige some leading men to furnish me with a handsome provision, under pain of being severely lashed from the overslowing gaul of my pen; and having the corruptness of the then administration brought upon the tapis by a weekly essay, which I intended to usher into the world, under the title and denomination of "The Speculist."

There are your monitors, your heralds, your tests, your contests, centinels, and crab-trees, said I; and pray, why mayn't a modest speculist enter the lists also, to lash the follies of the age, and, by introducing a fresh burden upon the cosse-houses, increase the income of the revenue with an additional tax of a new paper?

E 4

But,

But, that I might the better qualify myself for this new adopted scheme, I frequented a coffee-house not far from Lincoln's-inn-fields, where a number of politicians, authors, and newswriters, adjourned every evening, in in order to discuss the transactions of the day, and hand them again to the world under a new form.

I had not used this place long, before I was very agreeably furprized to fee my old club-mate the poet, whom I have formerly mentioned, and more 10, when I found he was so considerable a member of the fraternity. thought this a proper feason to open my mind, and gave him to understand, that, having some thoughts to amuse the world with my writings, I should be glad to be acquainted with some of his learned friends, the better to enable me to go on with success. He was transported at this my resolution, which he did not fail to attribute in some meafure

of Hamilton Murray. 81

measure to the insight I had reaped from himself the last time I was in his company, and proposed to introduce me into a private club of genius's above stairs, who met thrice a week. to communicate any new and curious discoveries, that each had imbibed during his absence, in the way of literature.

I was very much pleafed at this opportunity to commence an intimacy with a fet of men of whom I hoped to reap considerable advantage in regard to my new intended scheme, and took an occasion to enquire after the success of his late pamphlet, and whether he had reaped the benefits arifing from his pompous title-page? At this question he shook his head, and observed, that he had actually compleated the whole work, and presented the manuscript to a very eminent statesman for his perusal, but, instead of being complimented with a handsome salary for life, he was kicked out of doors by the minister's E 5 foot-

footmen, and threatened with a strawroom in Bedlam if ever he presumed
to address his lordship with any more
of his lunatick essays; and all this, my
dear friend, continued he, only because my extraordinary modesty would
not let me raise my demands any
higher than a place in the government
of a paultry sive hundred a year;
tho' I afterwards found out, that the
poor gentleman was remarkable for an
extreme dull comprehension, and subjected tothe violent attacks of a periodical frenzy.

I could not help laughing at this fingular narration, and condoled with him very much on so shocking a disappointment; but he let me know, I was much in the wrong to imagine a man of his solidity could be shocked at such a trisse, and observed he had still another resource, which I should be acquainted with in due season.

1 le

He informed me, that the club he intended to introduce me to was a fociety of very learned men, remarkable for their fingular turn of fancy, and exalted fentiments; that they employed the evenings in searching out every hing curious in the daily papers, and discussing our various transactions both at home and abroad with impartiality; whereby they were enabled every now and then to alarm the populace with the infertion of a seasonable paragraph, or the publication of a well concerted pamphlet; and with the dash of a pen convince the meanest capacity of the tottering situation of these realms; under the influence of a mal administration; which they were the better qualified to do, as they had correspondents in feveral quarters of the town, such as Grubstreet; St. Giles's, and the Fleet-prison:

I was just going to object to the importance of this intelligence by observing, that there was no great likelihood.

hood that persons in such a mean condition, or confined in jails, could be reasonably expected to understand thoroughly our connections on the continent, or the transactions of our ministry at home, when several of the members entered, and I was obliged to desist for that time, in order to take my seat among the elders.

Upon my friend the poet's information that I was a young gentleman of great parts, who had a desire to be initiated a member of the society, I was received with extraordinary respect, and had great reason to believe, they were not a little proud of their new associate.

We had not been long feated, before one of the brethren took occasion to observe, that the island of Minorca was a terrible blow to our trade in general, as the enemy would not fail to improve that advantage to the uttermost by employing

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 85 ploying their whole power to diffress our merchantmen by privateering.

Ay, Sir, replied another, we may thank ourselves for the loss of that important fortress: but, howsoever, I am glad to find the nation has at last roused itself, and, by a display of the British lion, given evident proofs what old England can do, when it finds itself infringed upon, not only by public, but also private undermining enemies.

'And so you fancy that a certain personage suffered death upon that account?' cried a grim fellow, with a very sarcastic sneer upon his countenance. 'Undoubtedly, Sir,' retorted the first speaker, 'the law was put in force to the uttermost in that article, I can assure you; which was the instance I mentioned, that Great Britain is not to be imposed upon, when the fastety of the kingdom is concerned, 'let

* let the delinquents be of ever so high * a degree or station.'

Did you ever fee the tragedy of king Richard the third acted at any of the theatres, rejoined the other, answer me to that. Very often, Sir, replied his antagonist; but what of that? And are you convinced that the apparitions therein exhibited were not really in themselves incorporeal air, but pure shesh and blood? continued the querist. Certainly, Sir, answered the first speaker, it was only a dexterous management of the actors; but I say, what of all this?

Fair and foftly, Sir,' returned the other, 'give me leave to ask you another serious question: Did you never
take notice with what swiftness the
ghoths made their appearance, and
that it was all by the mediation of a
trap-door on the stage?' 'I have
feen all this,' replied his antagonish,
but

HAMILTON MURRAY. 8

but am really at a loss to comprehend your meaning.

Why then, in the name of God; returned this fly interrogator, 'what might hinder the friends of the faid personage to make use of the like stratagem, and, by a neat contrivance, fupply the place of the criminal by a mechanical machine?

At this remarkable interrogation, the whole audience was struck dumb with a panic fear; which the discerning member observing, proceeded thus: • my friends, brains will be brains all the world over, let whatever endeavours be used by cunning politicians to say otherwise. The person, whom people foolishly imagine has long ago fallen a facrifice to the resentment of our cinjured country, is now alive and actually, at this juncture in Holland: The authority I shall produce will convince you of the truth of what I fay.

fay. Know then, that I am acquainted
with a person, who faid he saw a
friend of his, who told him for a cetain fact, that his own cousin spoke to
a gentleman's valet-de-chambre, who
is lately arrived from Amsterdam, and
beheld the very object in question,
hale and lufty, land out of the packet-

bost at Helvoetsluice, under the chi-

" rafter of a British tar."

At his convincing proof, a hollow grain echoed round the board, the epimers of 'poor England! wretched country' infattuated people! and deluded 'nimea!' were beliewed out in fight of in-feit woe; and the thanks of the whole society were immediately lavished upon this discerning politician, while it was invertaily agreed, that a pamphlet modification, entitled 'Roguery demands' or, The lost state of Great Breain delineated. In a private letter 'po a friend.'

The discovery of such a wonderful fecret had like to have disconcerted them all from any farther business for that night, had not the poet aroused their attention by the following question: 'Don't you think, my dear friends, that this wretched nation always has, and ever will be encumbered with a most enormous national debt, in every now and then defraying the expences of foreign and mercenary auxiliaries; and that, if some expedient is not found out to remove this inconvenience, our posterity will be ruined?'

They all agreed, that this was a very just remark, but that no visible way had as yet been found to prevent the malady. 'Nor never will,' cried the poet with his whole visage distorted, 'nor never will. Our great ones are 'only employed in feathering their own nests, at the expence of every other consideration. One of our prime mi-

glorious infinuation about the broomsticks: but notwithstanding this shocking indignity, I will yet restrain my fury: I will curb the spirit of fery resentment within me, and like the good prophet, deprecate the wrath that hangs above our heads, and threatens us with tenfold destruction. Nay, I will even extend my helping hand once more to save my bleeding creative; but if this last effort will not rouse them, I will be eternally silent; for if one was sent them from

He then observed, with a look that exceeds description, that if the legislature would in the next sessions of parliament publish an edict, offering a reward of forty shillings to every woman, whether married or unmarried, upon the birth of a male child, and the like sum of sorty shillings at the end of twelve months, provided the boy be then

· the dead, they will not believe."

gΙ

then living; it would not only in the courfe of a few years furnish our navy and army with an incredible number of able young men, but also be a means of preventing the many horrid murders that unnatural mothers commit upon their helpless offspring, from an apprehension of the infamy that attends detection. Whereas, if fimple fornication should pass without censure, and become a fundamental support of the constitution, we should find our young men exert themselves with becoming vigour; while our virgins would take care to manifest their obedience to the edict, by a proper application to the duties of their calling, and give evident tokens that they were very far from being useless members of the community.

This fagacious observation had so great an effect on the audience, that it was immediately agreed to usher a pamphlet into the world with the utmost expedition, entitled 'Joyful tidings to both sexes; or,

The necessity of fornication displayed.
In a letter to the right honourable

This important point being settled, to the no small joy of the community, a long meagre fellow, with three-fourths of his face besmeared with snuff, started up, and desired the company would be graciously pleased to suspend their concern of public affairs for a few minutes, in order to discuss a point of natural philosophy which he was about to communicate, and had ongaged his attention for some time.

'You must understand, Gentlemen,' said he, 'that it is my misfortune, or 'rather a trial upon my patience, not 'to be overburdened with what the generality of mankind distinguish by 'the appellation of the good things of 'this world; but as this is no more 'than a personal inconvenience, and 'what thousands of worthy men are 'subject

93

fubiect to besides myself, I am enabled to bear the frowns of fortune with becoming fortitude. In confequence of this inertia bonorum, I am confrained to put up with a paultry room "up three pair of stairs, not far from the neighbourhood of the king's Mews, and it has been my lot ever fince my residence there to be pestered most confoundedly with legions of fleas. At first I made extreme devastation among • these usurpers of my territories, carrying fire and fword into their camp; but of late I have begun to call the legality of this proceeding in aguestion, as they are certainly not only the prior inhabitants of the man-• fion, but also creatures contained in 4 that vast chain of beings, which gra-* dually descend from infinite perfec-• tion to absolute nothing, and conse-• quently their lives of the utmost im-* portance in the system of nature, tho' 4 our shallow intellects cannot reach it. What induced me also to this act of · for-

· forbearance as to farther injuring them in their lives and properties, refults from this thought, that certainly an infinitely wife Being would never call creatures into existence, however " triffing they may appear to our finite conceptions, without fome great end in view. Now this leads me to the point in question. As it is become a faying, even to a proverb, that many " men many minds; how do we know but the doctrine of Pythagoras, in regard to the transmigration of fouls, * may have more in it than most people · imagine? Is it not monstrous, horrid, and abfurd, to imagine, that God · would endue mankind with all the · frailties of human nature, furnish him with paffions, that require the most nice regulation to keep under, and be then damn him to eternal punishments for the commission of actions which he may be liable to fall into, from a . rhouland various causes? I am rather of opinion, that the fouls of men after .

* ter death pass into beings of a superior for inferior order, according to their behaviour in regard to the practice of virtue in this life, till after a long succession of changes, during which the pollution of their former crimes gradually pass away, and they are, by their sufferings, through a stroke of infinite wisdom, made conducive to universal happiness, they at least become purified to act in more exalted stations, and supply the place of becings, continually ascending in a per-

I could no longer endure this way of arguing, which I observed was striking at the roots of the christian religion, and, by depriving the gospel of its most persuasive terrors, was a means to induce mankind to indulge in actions which nothing but the sears of a never ending eternity could restrain them from, and insisted that his oration was both wicked and absurd. But I might have

' petual gradation.'

have faved myself this trouble; for the curiosity of the company was too earnestly engaged to let the matter drop here, and he was ordered to proceed.

He then lugged out an old iron fnuffbox, from whence having extracted a monstrous over-groan flea, and holding it out between his finger and thumb to the company, he proceeded thus: Who knows, Gentlemen, but in this ' little trifling infignificant trunk may be contained the soul of the great A-'lexander? That barbarous action of butchering the faithful Clytus in a debauch, was a crime that deferved ' many ages of punishment; and perhaps he was sweating out his way to coming happiness in the character of a flea, and doing penance for his many complicated crimes, by being half fmothered under the bedding of my egarret, when I was an instrument to release him from captivity, and open a free passage to a new change. Or per-6 haps

- haps it may be the residence of the
- divine Plato, who is obliged to under-
- ego this mortification as an attone-
- ment for human frailties.'

Here one of the members observed, that it was not likely to be the earthly tabernacle of the godlike Plato, as, were he in a state of purgation, the turtledove would have been the properest mansion for a soul so pure; and farther, that there was greater reason to believe, that it might be the habitation of our own king Richard the Third, who, having been born with large teeth. and always inclinable to bite mankind while in his proper character, might reasonably be supposed to assume a flation that feemed most convenient to exercise his grinders, and indulge his voracious appetite; and consequently, what creature more applicable than a flea, who, in its very nature, was a most outragious blood-sucker?

Vol. III.

F

This

This last reasoning appeared able to truth, that it was un: resolved the flea in question no other than the individual which they were the rather in believe, as it was the largest of that ever any in the compan membered to have beheld in course of their lives. After e had furveyed this animal, a proper reflections on what I faid, the owner, at last, clapt the blaze of the candle, and tice at the fame time, that, as memory of the man was almost it would be a mark of a me to commit any indecency upon t and confequently he would he after the manner of the antier finish the purgation by fire.

By this time it was drawing v which the affembly perceiving, to defer any farther confulta ne matter, and leave the name of the amphlet that was to be raised upon ne subject of this last discourse till ur next meeting; after which we roke up for that night, and I retired to my own apartment, lost in amazement the singularity of these mortals, and s much out of humour with my protect of authorizing as I had ever been or it; the very thought of which, ster this night's absurdity, having rought an effectual cure, at least, for hat time.



F₂ CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

I lay aside all thoughts of authorizing. — Go into the city, and am smitten with the charms of a young lady in the street. — Trace her home in extasses, and discover a bill over the door to let lodgings. — Find means to settle myself as a border in the family. — Am agreeably surprised at a second interview to meet with Dick Savage, who proves to be journeyman to my landlord. — He lets me into the characters of each individual.

In these and such like amusements I passed my time, till I had fairly tristed away twenty pounds of my stock; and as to doing any good by commencing author, I could see no prospect: the numberless productions of the press (multitudes of which I was informed by the booksellers, though many of them works of real merit, did not even

even defray the expences of publication) gave me a sufficient check to any attempts that way; and I had been so surfeited with the bombastical inconsistencies of the late club, that I verily thought Bedlam was the sittest mansion for their residence.

Enraged at the thoughts of having wasted so much time and money, without the satisfaction of procuring me one sincere friend, I went to my banker's in Lombard-street, with intent to take up twenty pounds more; but fully refolved, that if nothing turned out to my advantage before that sum was expended, to go abroad, and try my fortune in the East-Indies, 'rather than spend my time in idleness, and the daily expectation of approaching want.

I had just got the length of the Mansion-house, after having put this design in execution, when my eyes were blessed with a sight of the fairest crea-

F 3 ture

blood. As all my prospects, till this time, had been centered among the species of old maids and superannuated widows, a view of so much beauty, as was then presented to my admiring eyes, could not fail to charm me. Her course lying up Cheapside, I had the satisfaction to follow her all the way; during which it is impossible to describe the unusual sensations that possessed my bosom. Her air and carriage were inexpressibly graceful; and in her eye were delineated the supreme joys of love.

Heavens! what were the emotions of my foul on this occasion! I followed her — went before her — crossed the way — re-crossed again, in order to have an opportunity to meet her; and after all, found, to my experience, that my most refined conceptions of love hitherto had been grounded on no better a foundation than fits of passion, novelty,

12.5

of Hamilton Murray. 103

novelty, and juvenile warmth: and bore no more resemblance to my present teclings, than the twinkling of a star to the glorious blaze of Phæbus in his meridian. I was twenty times upon the point of accosting her, that I might bless my ears with the music of her inchanting tongue; but I was over-awed by a reverence hitherto unknown to me, and recoiled back as often in confusion.

Alarmed at these unusual symptoms of captivity, I endeavoured to turn aside from the inchantment that attended her motion; but it was impossible. My eyes were attracted towards her steps with more than magnetic influence, while the tumults of my blood sussiciently denoted, that the magick of her charms had already taken full possession of my heart.

As by her appearance and dress I had reason to believe she was a young lady of fortune, how did I curse the male-F 4 volence

wolence of my stars that had withheld me from the fight of so much perfection, when I had it perhaps in my power to engage her love with honour! I now found myself sufficiently punished for my deceitful behaviour to the sex in general, while under the character of a fortune-hunter; and had my old electrified mistress but known the situation of my mind at this juncture, she would have had no reason to complain of her unmais revenge being unsatisfied.

But, that I might improve the present opportunity to know the condition of this enflaver of my heart, I traced her very affiduously, till she entered a handsome house in D—street. I spent some time in walking up and down, led she might have only called there en pallant; but after a whole hour's prearbalation, without seeing any thing of her. I concluded it must certainly be the place of her abode. I now took a particular observation of the house, that I might

I might be at no loss to find it again, and for this purpose passed it several times; but my joy was unbounded at perceiving these words above the door, Ready furnished lodgings for a single gentleman.' At this discovery my whole soul was agonized with rapture. I no longer entertained the narrow notions of economy; but thinking only now I should enjoy the sight of so charming a creature, I went home to bress myself, and resolved to take the ndividual lodgings in question, if they were to be had for money.

With this view I put on my most gorgeous apparel: and, brimful of joy, went to the mansion that contained the reasure of my heart; when knocking and making my errand known at the loor, I was conducted into a very nandsome parlour by the servant, and desired to sit down. Soon after an ellerly gentleman came into the room, and very surlily asked me to walk up F 5 stairs;

stairs; and while I was exploring the conveniencies of the apartment, he eye me from head to foot with the greater attention, and after a little paule, ad dressed me thus: 'I presume, Sir, you are no stranger to the rules of London with regard to letting of lodgings. · There are fo many impositions carried on under specious appearances, that a · housekeeper cannot be too much upon ' his guard. Why, would you believe it, Sir, no longer ago than laft Fri-' day was fe'nnight, neighbour Pruen, the grocer over the way, had his · house robbed of a confiderable quantity of plate and valuables, by one of · his gentleman-like lodgers: fo, that ' you'll excuse me, Sir, if I cannot proceed farther in this affair, till I am ' authentically informed, from whence ' you came, who you are, and what is · your calling in this metropolis.'

Such a falute as this, and at a time when my whole faculties were abforbed in the prospect of soon seeing my adorable mistress, did not fail to shock me. I was for some minutes so overcome with grief, shame, and indignation, that I had not power to utter a single word: at length, recovering myself, I laid my hand upon my sword, and swore the sanction of his house protected him, or I would quickly convince him, what was due to the villain who should presume to decoy gentlemen, by his pretended bills, with no other view than to affront them in the grossest manner.

So faying, I was hurrying down stairs in a violent passion, when his wife, who very likely had foreseen something of this nature, from a knowledge of his general behaviour, met me in the passage, and intreated me in so handsome a manner not to go away till she should bring her husband to a just sense of his folly, that I was prevailed upon to step into a parlour, induced thereto

thereto by the appearance of my charmer in company with two other young ladies.

Finding myfelf in this ridiculous embreaffment, I was at a lofs how to carry the affair off with a good grace; but, after a little recollection, I began in this manner: Upon my honour, Laches. I make no question, but you are Ter in the riaire ica figure I must appear in at this concerns. I am acquied, by implication, of to less a crime than felony and housepreserg - and yet the good lady of the reads rus been to condeteending, that I am actually at a lots how to refent the infragement upon good manners is becomes a gentleman. For my part, I have experienced many feenes in my 196, but cannot recollect, that ever I was bemmed into fo ludicrous a fituauce is the recket one.

While they were apologizing for the ill manners of the old gentleman, who, they faid, was rendered peevish through his infirmities, he entered the parlour, attended by his wife, and, in a gruff manner, begged pardon for his abruptness: people were so apt to be deceived, he said, that there was no trusting to appearances; but if I had a mind for his second floor, I might have it, and welcome. He was convinced, I was a gentleman, and, moreover, I should not depart his house, till I had drank friends with him, and positively taken the apartments in question.

To this request his wife and daughters joined in concert, while my charmer observed, in a manner that thrilled my soul, that it was a thousand pities Mr. Brown had not a more agreeable method of delivery, as it might prevent numberless affronts, which he never intended as such: but she dared to say,

that we should be the better friends for this little missunderstanding.

These concessions, or rather the inward workings of my heart, at the thought of being under the same roof with so charming a creature, prevailed upon me to grant their request, and I mounted the stairs a second time, not a linke glad at having settled this assist upon is anicable a footing.

While the old gentleman was very efficiently expanding on the conveniences of every particular. I took occasion to alk outs, of there was no provate family of als neighbourhood, where I could occur, as I had an utter aversion to put o ordinaries, and would scruple to provat. At this he observed, that, comign to was not his outsom to take at occur, as or longers either, only as a source of the part in the large who could be had but a single tamely, and coming the same well let a part

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 111 of it to any gentleman; and, if I had no objection to the contrary, I might board with them also.

This was just what I wanted. I therefore chimed in with his propofal with great chearfulness, and agreed to pay him in the whole after the rate of twenty pounds per quarter; and, notwithstanding all his evasions, I insisted upon paying down the first quarter in advance, which I found means to perfuade him to accept of, by observing, that it would just save me the trouble of a journey to messieurs —, bankers in Lombard-street, with whom I always deposited any sums above five pounds, and that I had just received the payment of an inland bill from Briftol for exactly the money. I thought this infinuation necessary, that he might thereby have an opportunity to convince himfelf I was no impostor.

I then

I then offered him feveral directions, where he might fatisfy himfelf as to my character; but he was grown so polite all at once, that he would not hear a word more on that subject; which I was very glad of, as I did not choose to trouble any of my acquaintance upon such an occasion. I soon perceived the articles of depositing the money, and mentioning the banker, were not thrown away; he very complaisantly invited me to stay tea, which I as joyfully accepted of, as being what I had earnestly whihed for.

I had now leifure to feaft my eyes in computating the most elegant work of mine. She was in a most captivariate is, and appeared ten times a control to my imagination every size is a could not be more than every many years of age at the farthest; had in a more much and tair beyond expression. I had not been feated ton minutes, before I had the pleasure to ob-

ferve her eye me with some attention; but my heart was dissolved in transports, when I heard one of the young ladies distinguish her by the endearing name of Sophy, a found, ten thousand times more ravishing to my ears than the most exquisite strains of Handel. During this happy period I forgot all my misfortunes, cares, and anxieties whatfoever; and thinking I had now found one whose sweet society would amply reward me for any expence I might be at in the procuring it, and attone for the loss of my poor Sukey, I put on so chearful a behaviour, and affumed fuch gaiety of address, that the old gentleman and his wife confessed they should be very happy in my company; while the young ones expressed as much, by the fignification of some gracious looks, for the meaning of which I was at no At taking my leave, which, after a most inordinate stay, I hardly knew how to do, he asked me when I intended entering on the lodgings?

On

On which I told him, that I would fend my clothes and books that very night, and be ready to enter the next morning.

All the way going home I could not help reflecting within myself on the step I had taken; a step, which, in my more ferious thoughts, I could not but look on as imprudent, as without some re-inforcement, I could not expect to support long with honour; for I could eafily perceive this young unknown had wrought a most wonderful change in my whole frame. Whenever I approached any female before, let her condition be ever so high, I did it with freedom and ease: but I could not for the foul of me look upon this charming girl without the most consummate adoration; and in consequence of these fymptoms, I directly concluded, that love had taken possession of my whole faculties; not a momentary defire for the gratification of a debased appetite,

petite, but a profound esteem for her, settled on a sympathy of souls, and established on the basis of the most consummate beauty. How did I now hug myself, that I was not encumbered with an old wife, to chain down my aspiring mind from the glorious prospects of possessing so amiable a woman! If that now had been my case, I should certainly, in the distraction of my soul, have done some rash action; and I congratulated myself on the happy prospect before me a thousand times.

My pictures, my books, and every curiofity that had stood me in such large sums of money, now appeared precious in my eye, and I hardly regretted the price they had cost me; as I fancied these things would not only serve to raise me in the opinion of the old people, but also procure me the approbation of my charming mistress. These I caused to be packed up, and sent them away by a porter the same evening, with a direction to the servant,

to put up my book-case, which was of mahogony, in the closet. Doubtless, thinks I, a perusal of such things will make them believe I am a gentleman of fortune; and who knows, but I may fall upon ways and means to bring this affair to a happy conclusion! Perhaps her fortune is but small—Why, heavens grant it may prove so! I shall then be the more likely to succeed, as being upon a level with her: for could I only be so happy as to enjoy the love of so charming a creature, I could be contented in a hovel, and not envy the greatest monarch upon earth.

Entranced with these pleasing suggestions, I spent the night in planning out schemes, whereby I might improve the remainder of my fortune to the uttermost; and after all could see no method more likely to succeed, than, as the war had been some time commenced, to lay out two hundred pounds in conjunction with some of those adventurers

venturers who were fitting out privateers to cruife against the French. and with the ballance in hand, apply myfelf to whatever might occur wherein I was likely to make any advantage. The more I thought of this scheme, the better I liked it. It was the only branch of business I could engage in. without being exposed to the villany of deceitful men. They cannot, thought I, take the advantage of me in this, as in multitudes of other forts of trade: for, if there are any prizes taken, it will be impossible to conceal them; and should the ship be overpowered by a superior force, and carried off by the enemy, I shall at least have the satisfaction to think my misfortunes are providential, and that I am not ruined by a set of designing knaves.

Being come to this resolution, I made myself quite easy, and resolved to ingratiate myself, by every means I could think of, into the good graces of my land-

landlord, that so I might have the better opportunity to engage the affections of my mistress. Besides this, I easily foresaw, I should have no small difficulty in eluding the prying eyes of her companions, from whom I must use all my cunning to conceal my attachment.

Next morning I went in high spirits to breakfast in my new lodgings, and upon knocking at the door, was horribly confounded at being let in by my old companion Dick Savage, whom I had not feen ever fince our coming home together from Epsom, and the adventure of the club-night. This encounter alarmed me. I immediately fet him down in my mind as a rival to my happiness, and concerted his destruction that very minute. Yes, yes, thinks I, he is either enamoured of her beauty or fortune, and has already perhaps won her love: but I will tear the willain to atoms, who shall but presume to come between me and my darling hopes,

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 119 hopes, my dear, angelical, blooming Sophy.

I was so overcome with this reflection, that I had no power to answer him to his congratulations at this unexpected meeting; but was fain to lean against the wall, in order to keep myself from falling. 'Bless me!' said he, what's the matter? you look pale!' Do I? then you are a villain, and are the occasion of it, answered I, half choaked with rising passion, and I will be the death of you this moment.

The poor fellow was so consounded at this unexpected address, that he concluded me smitten with lunacy, and, pushing back a side door, which I had not as yet perceived, conducted me into an elegant apothecary's shop, and began to apply some hart's-horn to my nose with great eagerness. This action brought me a little to myself. I recollected, that very possibly the gentleman

7 A 3 704,533 · PI · salan sat in · bres,

you are one, and with whom also, and congratulate you on your refined taste. Next you must know, that I have had a mighty quarrel with that same uncle you speak of; in consequence of which, I am here, d'ye see, in quality of journeyman apothecary, till I can have an opportunity to find out a place suitable to my inclinations, by going to sea.'

This intelligence cleared away all my gloom. I looked upon my rencounter with Dick as one of the luckiest transactions in nature that could possibly have happened, and took that opportunity to inquire into the fortune and family of my mistress, whom I now confessed to him to be deeply in love with.

He told me she was the daughter of a deceased merchant, that she was an orphan, eighteen years of age, and had a fortune of two thousand pounds in the hands of his master, who was her Vol. III. G guar-

HAMILTON MURRAY. 123

nsequence of this intelligence, his r had brightened up exceedingly; aughters were elevated with the hts of getting a husband; and Sophy had declared, she had enned a notion from the first sight to that I was undoubtedly a gentle-

'And now,' continued Dick, will very probably see the effects his at breakfast; for they certainly you for a man of fortune. In mean time, I believe, it would be e prudent in you to conceal any wledge you have of me, that I be the better enabled to tell you it is said from time to time in your nce.'

ras transported at this intelligence, promising to obey him in every rular, went up stairs in a tumult y.

G₂ CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

I grow in favour with the apothers—Buy a finare in a private frip of war.—Harrangue a club of shop-lampers on the nature of trade.—

Scoompany the ladies to Vauxhall.—
What happened there.

A Sili etterali ane mora, viene del
A vere all literat i especialment
moratoria, into lata anti medica al
moratoria, into lata anti medica al
moratoria vianti al limiting contratada,
moratoria compressiva, Ser. Into
gradina contrata antichi de caestili di
moratoria contrata antichi de caestili di
moratoria contrata antichi antichi
moratoria gradina si caestili antichi
moratoria gradina si caestili antichi
moratoria contrata antichi antichi
moratoria antichi antic

s is not so governable as in people of a fresher date: the passions are in a manner wholly tutored by the well or 'ill conditions of our bodily organs, fo that it oftentimes happens that a

twitch of the gout, or a chronical

head-ach, will make a man commit

ftrange trespasses in point of good

manners, while otherwise he may

• be the best natured creature in the

world.

I now began to find, that Dick's prefages had been verified, and put a stop to his farther apologies, by taking notice, that, as the preservation of a family mostly depended upon knowing who they admitted under their roof, he had certainly an unquestionable right to fatisfy himself in so important an article: and as to any unmeaning words he might have dropt the day before, I took it as a most infallible indication of the honesty of his nature, that was not used to disguise his real sentiments

G 2 under

under a borrowed mark and appearance of politeness; than which nothing could be more odious to a generous mind, or hateful in the fight of God and men, and concluded my speech by begging him to rest assured, that, instead of refenting his behaviour in a circumftance so important, that he could not oblige me more than by making immediate enculry into my circumstances and mom character.

ŗ

But this he declined with the greatest energy, and I found that their good crimion of me increased every minute. He rold me it was very uncommon to fee to young a man in this licentious age, give himself any trouble about books; and he was glad to fee by my pictures, I had a tafte for the polite arts. There is a very fine violin also come

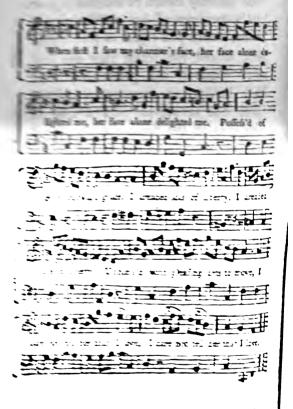
- with your clothes,' favs he, 'and you
- "must positively oblige us with a little
- ef vour skill upon that instrument,
- new and then, for I am excessively · fond

fond of it. And come, girls, suppose Mr. Murray should be inclined to give us a specimen of his abilities at this time, would you object to it?' 'No, no, indeed, Sir,' cried they one and all;' and if the gentleman,' said Miss Biddy, the youngest daughter, will but favour us with a song of his own at the same time, as I am fure he can, he will oblige us beyond expression.'

There needed not many arguments to induce me to comply with this request; for having the over-night givenwent to the feelings of my heart in the following lines, and which I had set to music, I thought this a lucky opportunity to exhibit them in; and therefore, without waiting for farther intreaty, I took up my violin, and, laying the notes before me, accompanied it in these words:

A

A SONG.



And oh! I found the heav'nly maid
Had charms of a superior kind!
Charms such as time can never fade,
The heav'n-born beauties of the mind!
At sense and beauty so divine,
What heart so cold but burns like mine?

Lie still, fond heart, nor blindly run-On miseries unselt before, But, as the Persian does the sun, At awful distance her adore. Resign, fond youth, to sate's decree; Such virtues were not made for thee.

All this time I took care to direct my glances in fuch a manner, as, without being taken notice of by others in the room, my Sophy might apply the words as meant to herself; and I had reason to believe, from some symptoms I perceived in her look on the occasion, that she did so, and that she recollected my assiduity in following her a few days before; alt G 5 which

which seemed to indicate a happy prefage of my future prospects.

The elder Miss Brown said, that if the young lady came up to the original, she must be a master-piece of nature, and the lover had a fine taste; while my charmer observed, that I had a very happy imagination for extending my characters beyond life; and if ever it was her fortune to be in love, she should think it a very great happiness to be endued with so elegant a vein of fancy, to support her in the absence of her darling swain.

Here I was so entranced with the music of her delightful tongue, that, unmindful of the consequences, I replied without hesitation, The man who shall be so happy, Miss, as to have so fine a lady for a subject, has no occasion for the muses to inspire him to poetry. Every word, action, and gesture

of his adorable miftress, becomes an instrument in the hands of Cupid to transport his mind to the most sublime ideas; and no sooner is his soul touched with the divine passion of love, than he immediately is metamorphosed into the most admired orator, the sinest painter, the best poet, and the most exquisite musician in the Universe; at least, he receives the seeds of all these gifts within him, and very trisling efforts will bring him to the highest perfection.

I fancy, Sir,' said the eldest daughter, 'you have already experienced what it is to love, you picture that passion so feelingly.' This question made me instantly sensible, that I had carried the matter too far; on which I replied, Not I, Mis, I do assure you; but I cannot answer for myself, if I am thus long blessed with the company and conversation of ladies who might grace

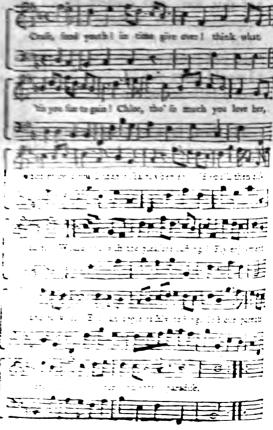
grace the fide of an emperor. It is all by the help of a little anticipating fancy that I am enabled to arrive at the small knowledge I have of this grand mover of the human breast, and from the observations I have taken of some of my friends, while under its pressure.

4 And that is the best method of all? Sir,' quoth Mr. Brown, 'I can affure vou: a theory built upon facts, being the best foundation in the whole practice of physic. But, however, young Gentleman, though I must own your opoetry to be very pretty, yet I cannot fay it altogether pleases me; for, to be plain with you, I do not like the fubject. Look ye, Sir, (taking a • paper out of his pocket-book) I have here a copy of verses wrote by Will Couplet, and fet by Dick Gamut, some forty years ago, which carry fome ' sense in them. You shall hear 'em, Sir; but as nature never meant me · for

- for a finger, I shall wave any attempt
- of that fort, and content myself in
- e repeating them without any other
- aids than those of a proper emphasis,
- and just pronunciation; qualifications.
- I would have you to know, Sir, I am-
- onot a little famed for.'

He then, in a very deliberate manner, proceeded to put on his spectacles, which having accomplished, with a tone, action, and utterance of a slaughter-house hero, he bellowed out these words:

A SONG.



What

What is grandeur, wealth, or power?

Toys that please at distant view;
All their charms, possess'd an hour,
Fade, as Chloe's will with you.

Then nor strive, nor longer trisse
For a conquest which when won,
Will your tender passion stisse,
And you'll sind yourself undone.

Having ended, and picked up his spectacles, which had dropped from his nose, before he concluded the last line, he desired to know my opinion of his friend Will's performance, and whether there was not reason in it as well as rhime?

I told him I thought there was some ingenuity in the performance, but that I could not by any means subscribe to Mr. Couplet's opinion, that a woman was less valuable after possession than before; that, on the contrary, where love was founded on the basis of vir-

tue and truth, and supported by a similitude of manners and inclinations, it rather served to heighten the affection, and cement the union the stronger.

- 'Fiddle, faddle,' replied the old gentleman, 'away with your virtue and 'truth, your cement and union, and I 'know not what — I tell you ——'
- La, Papa,' interrupted the eldest daughter, 'how can you talk in this 'manner? I vow you are enough to deter us girls from ever venturing upon a husband, your doctrine is so 'frightful.'
- 'No, no,' replied he, 'there is no great danger in that, girl, I promife you Why, there is your mother now, there she sits, and let her deny it if she can: why, I told her as much a twelve-month before I martied her, yet she would not take my word for it, but was willing to put

* it to trial, and she has long since ex-

* perienced that I told her no lie.'

This dry and unexpected conclusion fet the whole company a laughing, but as it was a subject not altogether adapted to the delicate ears of my Sophy, whose face it had crimsoned with a blush, I forbore to make any reply to the old gentleman's remark, and foon found means to give a turn to the conversation by calling another topick; and after having passed away best part of the afternoon in a manner much to my satisfaction, and made more progress in my affairs than I could have expected in fo fhort a time, I went up to my new apartments, and began to confider with myself how I should proceed in this bufiness: for I found I was unable to live without a speedy union with that charming girl, who, by her lively wit, and modest behaviour, had compleated that conquest, which.

which her beauty began. I faw, that if I did not keep an extraordinary watch over my words and actions, I should fine betray the secrets of my soul to her companions; and, from the little conversation I had had with them almenty, I was very much of opinion, that Dick had not exaggerated in his account of them.

I was giad, however, to find the old guitement had fent to my banker's for an englary. End in confequence of this choisers. I received to put a scheme a praince, to deceive him still farther. For this purpose I took up two hundred points from their hands, which I provide a house the other end of the norm intending to make this piece of these turn out to as to raise me still hapter as his opinion.

It was not long before I had occafor to put this in practice. In a few agains he invited me to accompany him

to a tavern, in order to spend the evening the more agreeably. I foon perceived the company confifted mostly of shopkeepers, and people of his own profession, with whom I entered into discourse very freely, about the nature and progress of trade; our political connections with other nations in point of commerce, with the advantages and disadvantages resulting therefrom; and by the help of some little superficial knowledge I had imbibed from books, a front of assurance, and a ready dehivery, I found means to perfuade them: that I had a most extensive acquaintance with this valuable branch of knowledge.

I prefume, Sir, you are a merchant, fays a corpulent woollen-draper of Ludgate-hill, 'and have dealt very largely 'abroad, to enable you to arrive at fuch a perfect understanding of these intricate matters.' No, no, Sir, said I, in these troublesome times I am sick

I have finanted fufficiently for my proceedings in that way already, and shall take care how I engage in any such work again, without mature deliberation. My business at present lies chiefly in distressing the enemy by privateering. I am deeply engaged in this play at Bristol, and have had some backy hits hitherto. I should not even surely to hazard a few hundred pounds more, if I could light on a society of gentlemen who intended to venture upon that rooting.

Say you to? quoth Mr. Brown, who was much delighted at this intelligence: I can tell you then, there herer could be a better time than just now. Here is a subscription carrying on to fit out a private ship of war, his mount fourteen carriage guns, sixteen fourtes. a large quantity of musquetions, hand-granadoes and shink-pots, and two hundred men; receipts for which

which may either be had at the bar of this tavern, or at Mess. D—d and Comp. bankers at—, at one hundred pounds each share; the books to be kept open till the sum of twelve thousand pounds shall be subscribed; and the balance, if any remains, to be reserved in bank, in case of accidents; and as I have ventured two shares here myself, I should be glad to have my friend embark in

figlad to have my friend embark in the fame bottom, for the fake of company.

I was not a little glad to hear him mention Mr. D—d, as it was with him I had deposited my money a little before: so, after perusing the articles, which I seemed to approve of vastly, I said I would accompany him in this project with great pleasure, and immediately wrote a line to Mr. D—d, with a desire to apply one hundred pounds of my cash towards a share in the privateer then upon subscription.

I could perceive Mr. Brown was much surprised to find I had more money in another quarter also, and his opinion of my circumstances rose gradually from that minute.

My fituation was now very agreeable. I was every day bleffed with the fight and conversation of the charmer of my foul; and tho' I had as yet refrained from the least hint of my passion by a verbal communication, I nevertheless flattered myself I had made great progress in the art of love by the language of the eyes, which bespoke my feelings in a thousand lively infinuations.

One day, in consequence of a more than ordinary agreeableness in the weather, I invited the whole family to spend the evening at Vauxhall, observing, that the season would soon be at an end, and it would be pity to let slip so favourable an opportunity to enjoy so charming and rational an amusement.

nent. The old couple, as I had exected, declined the motion with great ivility; but I eafily prevailed upon he young ones to favour me with their ompany, and we all four fet out in a nackney-coach.

When we entered the gardens, I enraged the coachman to wait and carry is home again; and took fingular care o provide myself with a box situated near the mufic, where I had the pleaure to treat my partners with a very handsome cold collation. The mufic, the wine, fine evening, brilliant company, and, above all, the favourable looks of Miss Sophy, who was more than ordinary gay on this occafion, thrilled my foul. My bosom was filled with such extasy, that it was impossible to hide it, and in the transports of my heart, I faid and did a thoufand pleasantries, having all the reason in the world to believe I had made an impression on my charmer, whose lovely eyes

eyes beamed upon me every minute with tenfold radiance. Elated at these favourable symptoms, which I construed as the luckiest omens to my love, I attended them round the gardens, explained the paintings exposed to view, with tolerable accuracy, and had the pleasure to be saluted by some gay young fellows, on the strength of a superficial and coffee-house acquaintance, whose dress and behaviour on this occasion I fancied did me great honour.

While I was employed in this delightful manner, I was much furprised at the fight of my friend Raily, elegantly equipped in scarlet and gold, and leading up a hoary matron, who might have very well passed for his grandmother. Though my indignation was very great at this rencounter with a scoundrel who had abused my considence so grossly, yet I could not help laughing at his burlesque appearance; and, after begging the ladies pardon for a single

he

of Hamilton Murray. 145

a fingle minute, I ran after him fully resolved to either make him render me fatisfaction, or have him apprehended for a robbery. I found means to overtake him just as he was quitting the gardens, when perceiving me approach with a furious gesture, he quitted the woman he was with, and thought proper to stop my mouth by crying out. Have a little patience, my dear friend! for heaven's fake don't blow me, and I will pay you the whole tote. D've fee that piece of antiquity? You must know I am her governor, she is my s lawful wedded wife, and as loving a foul as ever spread callicoe; and to crown all, my boy, I am this day e as rich as a Croesus. D-n snuffe ling say I, and flinching to boot; I found nothing was to be done without the dust, so I e'en thought pro-• per to borrow a little from my friend to cruife upon my own bottom. have fucceeded, and here is your moe ney again with thanks.' So faying,

H

Vol. III.

the pulled out his pocket book, and presented me with two fifty pound bank notes, which I received with vast joy.

At this unlooked-for acquilition, which I confidered as ten times the sum in my then situation, as I had given over every farthing for lost, I recalled my good humour, my resentment substituted apace, and I gave him joy of his happy purchace: I then exacted his place of residence, with a promise to let me into the particulars of his good fortune at leisure, and quitting him for that time, went back to rejoin the ladies.

I was hugging myself all the way in the happiness I should receive in expending this sum in the prosecution of my love, when upon drawing near the box, I perceived the ladies were under no little agitation, occasioned by the impudence of one of those town-rakes, who take every opportunity, and place

200

of Hamilton Murray. 147

their supreme delight in affronting ladies alone and unaccompanied, with language that would difgrace a carman. He was still carrying on his harangue, furrounded by a fet of fellows of the fame stamp, when I approached, and seeing the tears in my Sophy's eyes, and her companions very much disordered. I lost all patience, and seizing him by the throat, without regarding the place I was in, complimented him with a sfew fmart kicks on the breech. Aroused at this unwelcome salute, he difengaged himself, drew his sword, and invited me to accompany him to the adjacent field. I obeyed this injunction with great readiness, being under very little apprehensions from the fword of my antagonist, as I had taken care to perfect myself in the seience of defence with the greatest accuracy. But we were prevented from carrying this matter farther, by the interpolition of his companions, one of whom took notice, that it was not H 2 worth

worth Sir William's while, to meddle with so dirty a fellow. He is a dirty scoundrel, answered I, in a transport of rage, who calls me so: and if you, or any one among ye, dare to affirm, that that booby (pointing to the supposed knight) has acted any other but a brutish, mean, and villanous part, unworthy the character of a gentleman, or a man of honour, I will maintain him to be a most dastardly poltron, and make good my affertion with the point of my sword.

They were so consounded at the resolute manner I spoke these words, and which I accompanied with a slourishof my weapon, that they slunk off in great consustion, and soon after left the gardens; while I had the satisfaction to receive the congratulations and thanks of a number of gentlemen and ladies, who were pleased to applaud my behaviour on this occasion.

Having got rid of this troublesome affair so much to my honour, I turned to the ladies, and foon brought them to good humour, by relating the adventures of Raily, and how luckily I had recovered my money, at the same time producing the notes as a convincing proof of my veracity. They were much diverted at this piece of information, and were very anxious to fee this extraordinary Hibernian, and his hoary wife, but upon inquiry, found they had quitted the place a little before.

By this time the sky began to be evercast, and, from the impending clouds, I conjectured we should have rain in a few minutes. In consequence of this belief, I went out to look for the coach-man I had employed to carry us home, but after a long fearch, he was nowhere to be found; and what vexed me the more, was, that every body had almost quitted the gardens. It had already began to rain very smartly, and . H 2

there

there was no prospect of getting down by water without being half drowned on the way. In this dilemma I fpyed a hackney-coach by itself, with an old great-coar upon the feat. I now refolved to act as the present exigency feemed to require; for, not doubting but it was in waiting for fome perfons who had engaged its flay, I thought I had as much right to the convenience as those who had infringed upon my property; and very deliberately handing the ladies into it. I mounted the coachbox, equipped myself in the great-coat, and giving the horses a whip, was at Westminster-bridge foot in a trifle of time. Here I shifted my pretty fare into another convenience, and quitting the old one, which I left at a public-house door, with the mafter of which I left a crown to defray expences, I had the pleasure to bring this event to a happy conclufion, by landing them all fafe at home, where the apothecary was much diverted at the recital of our evening's adventures.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Am horribly perplexed at my precarious fituation, and find myfelf more and more in love.—Confult with my friend Dick, who advises me to declare my passion. - Invite my mistress to Hampton-court, and make a full discovery of my heart.—Am blessed with a mutual return of affection, and come home in a transport of unbounded joy.

IN the mean time I could perceive. I that while I was endeavouring to engage the good liking of Miss Sophy, I had unwillingly made a conquest of her two companions, who stuck to me like my shadow: I could not rest five minutes in the day, but they were continually peftering me to play upon the violin; and when I chanced to touch upon any foft air, they always drew H 4

con-

conclusions, that gave me no room to doubt of their meaning.

Such a fituation a few months before would have flattered my vanity exceedingly; but now, when my whole faculties were wrapt in the adoration of my darling miftrefs, I looked upon this accident as the greatest misfortune that could happen to me. I could not even look upon my charmer, but they took umbrage at it; and I foon found, that if I had a mind to stay there much lenger. I must put in practice a declaration of love to one or other of them; having been already given to understand by several significant hints, that fuch would be not only welcome, but was alio expected.

This discovery imparted abundance of vexation. I found it extremely difficult to do violence to my heart on the occasion: for, however light I might have

have made of these verbal compliments while I remained difengaged, now I was fairly in for it, every word, look, or gesture, that was any ways derogatory to my present feelings, stung me to the quick. I easily foresaw, that if I pretended love, the mercenary custom of the world would oblige me to make some presents, the better to fignify the ardency of my paffion, which at this juncture I had no great inclination to. Besides, I must be under a necessity to come to an explanation with one of them, with regard to the honourableness of my intentions. neither of whom was I in the least defirous to be engaged with. I languished with impatience to declare my mind to my dear Sophy; but was fo haunted by one or other of her rivals, that as yet I never could get that opportunity.

What gave me a vast deal of uneasiness on this account, was the precariousness of my situation, and narrowness of my fortune. I could not, on resection, H 5 enter-

entertain the thoughts of impoling myfelf on her, whom my foul adored, as a man of circumstance, when I was so far beneath her in that important article. I now could have no idea of a love being real that was founded on the tottering fabrick of a fortune, and was afraid her notions of me would be very mean, should the once come to suspect, that, after all my pretentions, I had only a defign tomarry her for the fake of her money. My nature was too proud to own myfelf any thing below my prefent appearance, and yet my love was too elevated to engage her affections upon a falle narrative. In fhort, I experienced to my coil, that I could neither live without her, nor vet declare my passion without the risk of being discarded with disdain, should the truth be once unfolded. Besides, had I even been upon a footing to demand her consent openly, I had too much reason to fear the brutality of her guardian would put a most effectual stop to my farther progress, fo

fo long as the late marriage act should put it in his power to enforce her obedience, not only to prevent a too hasty removal of her fortune from his hands, but also when he should discover, that instead of making my addresses to one of his daughters, I had come there only to effect my designs on his ward with the greater facility.

In this perplexing dilemma I had recourse to Dick, unfolding my difficulties, with the present situation of my affairs, and defired his advice how to proceed in fo great an embarassment. He ingenuously told me, he was of opinion, that both the fifters had conceived a regard for me, more on the account of their thinking me a proper object for a husband in point of money, than any regard to my personal qualifications, as being too much engroffed with their own importance, to think well of any body else. He then advised me, the best way to come to a private confe-

conference with my mistres, to take the opportunity of her absence to carry the fisters to some of the public walks, in which case I could do the same with her another time without suspicion, where I might then declare my love, endeavour to gain hers in return, and trust to time for the rest, as she would very soon be of age, and out of the power of her avaricious guardian.

I liked this councel of my friend fo well, that I refolved to put it in prac-In a few days I took the adtice. vantage of my charmer's paying a visit abroad, to invite both the fifters to Marybone gardens, and obtained their confent with great readiness. Here, as before, I assumed much gaiety of spirits, ogled to one in the other's absence, and made dumb love to both; and after doing myself the honour to spend a moidore on this occasion, conveyed them home under a full perfuafion, that each had made a conquest of my heart; and I foon

foon found by their behaviour, that I had acted my part to admiration.

Having finished this affair with to much address. I fancied there would be no room for jealoufy to invite Miss Sophy in like manner, but I was fome time before I could find occasion to bring this part of my intentions to bear. At last, as good luck would have it. they were both obliged to go down to Deptford to visit a sick relation; and I took that opportunity to beg Miss Sophy's company in a fingle horse chaise to Hampton-court. I foon obtained her consent to do me this pleasure, and we both fet out pretty early. Language is impossible to paint the situation of my thoughts, at finding myfelf alone with the joy of my heart on this occasion. I experienced such sloods of pleasure, that I was hardly able to think at all; and we were got to our journey's end before I could bring myfelf to speak one word to the purpose.

When

When we arrived at Hampton-court, I immediately drove to the Toy, and handing my partner into a handsome room, bespoke a very elegant dinner. The commotions of my mind were fo great at finding my tongue, as it were, debarred of utterance, that I was fain to fwallow down a few bumpers by way of infpiring courage, which rather increased than diminished my confufion. My mistress foon perceived my disorder, and begged to know what alled me, for that I looked very ill. Aroused at this observation, I thought now or never was the time to effect my purpose; and after feveral unfucceleral attempts, I at last made shift to tell her, that it was no wonder I was a little inditposed, for I had laboured under the induence of a confuming dilorder for some time, and now, that I had an opportunity to put in trial a frechlek for cure, I was under terrible apprehensions lest I should be forced to

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 159 nart severely for any little ease I might rocure thereby.

She turned pale at this declaration. nd telling me she was very forry toear I was ill, proposed going back irectly for London. No, my charmig Fair, said I, assuming courage at rese favourable symptoms, my soul's elight, and darling of my heart, home an afford me no relief: my home, my oul and my all are centered in thy anelical bosom, and if I am so unhappy s to incur your displeasure at this discoery. I shall be the most wretched of Il mortals. From the moment I beeld your divine form, I- found myself ke the folitary turtle in the wilderess; the furrounding pleasures of this ay city were dead to me; the face of ature put on an unwonted appearance f gloom; and I could not rest till I' hould be under the same roof with my looming Sophy. It was you that drew ne there; it was for the sake of beholding

holding thy lovely countenance, that I put up with the indignities of the brute your guardian, and daily fuffer the impertinence of the prudes his daughters. Glad of poffeffing the joy to be fo often near the darling of my heart, whole lovely eyes, and every artless smile, entranced my soul to paradife, I was above every other confideration, and obliged to do violence to my love, by pretending a passion, where I could not but look with difgust, lest, by betraying the fecrets of my foul, I should be deprived of the pleasures of vour endearing company. In pity then to my woes, in compassion to my love-sick heart, kindly proclaim my pardon for this bold proceeding, and in return for my difinterested attachment, say you will now and then permit me to pour out the anguish of my throbbing heart, and whifper in your ears the unbounded, infinite, and eternal depth of my fixed, my unalterable love!

Here I stopt, and had worked up my passions so much in the ardor of delivery, that the tears trickled from my eyes, and my whole man was enervated into downright woman.

At this unexpected and heart-felt declaration, my dear girl's lovely face was covered with blushes, ten thousand times more charming than the rosy erimson of the eastern sky. She chided me kindly for conceiving a passion for one I had so little knowledge of; but thanked me for this instance of my good will in her favour, which she was the rather induced to believe real, as she had imbibed a very good opinion of my morals. She observed, that love was a fubiect on which she had hitherto beflowed very little attention, as being a circumstance that was not to be enterrained without mature confideration. She said, it was time enough to think of these things some years hence, when we should be better enabled to launch. into.

into life with experience, and not augment the number of those unhappy people, who, by an over-hasty choice, are a melancholy proof of the folly in entering upon the most serious business of life with as little concern as they would upon a party of pleasure: and concluded with desiring me to check this rising passion in the bud, till I should be fully convinced, whether love had not blinded me to overlook several inconveniencies which might naturally attend so important a step as marriage.

Transported at this favourable answer, so much beyond my warmest hopes, and by which I had the pleasure to experience, that she was also no ways engaged, I re-assumed my suit with great earnestness, expatiated on the difference of a love sounded on a sympathy of souls and a similitude of manners, where the choice was mutual, and the chance for happiness very great, and those merce-

mercenary matches that were every day where the ardor of indivimade up. duals was increased and diminished in proportion to the magnitude of each. other's bags; and took notice, that, provided true lovers had wherewithal tokeep them above the dependance of as scornful world, there was the greatest. likelihood of a folid and a lafting joy. It is not my intention, my dearest Sophy, continued I, to infinuate from this, that. all cares of worldly matters are to be. laid aside. People of discretion will. always provide for futurity, in order to: prolong their joys unmolested, and furnish a decent provision for their growing offspring; and I am far from wishing to engage in an affair of this, nature, even with my foul's joy, before. my circumstances are inquired intomy fortune established, and my monies. called in; and I should scorn, loath, and detest myself, were I capable to entertain a thought that should render the happiness of my charmer within the: leaft

least verge of doubt. I am a stirring and a venturous man, and have hitherto found means to support the character of a gentleman, without overlooking the main chance: I may be worth a round fum, and perhaps nothing at all; for, though the leas are the main fource and inlet of all treasure, the man, whose fortune is dependant on the winds and waves, and fubject to the ravages of a powerful enemy, is but on a precarious and tottering foundation: and could I only be so happy as to obtwo my Sophy's approbation of my fiame, and engage her affections in my bekalf. I would wait contentedly the inue of what Providence shall think hi to turn out in my favour, with regand to my adventures. I have now at its; and if they should turn out agreeable to my expediation, I will tettle my deareil's fortune upon her to a fingle furthing, retire from a life of care and anxiety, and make the whole a like's of my future life one continued e Fort

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 165 effort to convince her of my boundless and uncommon love.

'You speak so generous, and are so
honourable in every thing you either
say or do,' said the dear girl, with a
modest blush, 'that I should think myself unworthy such honourable treatment, were I capable of dissembling
on this occasion; and it is with pleasure, I must tell you, that if you can
obtain my guardian's consent, there
shall nothing be wanting on my part
to establish your happiness on a lasting soundation.

At this welcome and unexpected condescension, my soul was lost in extasy: I fell at her seet, and embracing her knees, Ah! thou lovely pattern of beauty, cried I, thou dear, thou melting charmer of my transported heart! what shall I render for this unmerited goodness, as much above my warmest hopes, as the dear author of my joy surpasses

furpasses the rest of her sex in every species of admired persection! if my whole suture life can be thought capable to reward such transcending goodness and virtue, I shall think it gloriously spent in so pleasing a work; and with this ring I seal my eternal love and constancy. Saying this, I got up and presented one to her trembling hand, and received another in return, while I ravished a melting kis that set my whole blood in a feverish slow.

In this happy fituation it was impossible to contain myself. I had always been crowned with excessive spirits upon the least smile of fortune; but now, when my soul was blessed with a sull declaration of consenting love from the only woman in the world from whom it could be agreeable, I was really to be pitied. I gazed and looked so wildly, that she began to be in fear for my intellects, and made a motion for going home.

It was no wonder I was so moved, considering my situation. I had mentioned things, in the transports of my heart, which were far from being real; and, notwithstanding all her love in my favour, I was still unhappy in thinking what would at last be the issue of this affair.

On our way home, I told her, I was of opinion it would be prudent to conceal this matter from her guardian, till I should be in a condition to call in my accounts, and demand his consent with honour; which she readily approved of, and on this concession I was much easier.

When we arrived at home, I was glad to find the two fisters had not as yet come back; and I regulated my looks so well at supper, that neither the apothecary or his wife could perceive the least symptoms of my attachment. After this repast I took occasion to acquaint

quaint Dick with my happy prospects, at which he expressed much joy, and we determined to consult farther as to my future proceedings, by his stepping up unperceived to my apartment, and sleeping with me that night.

In the mean time my foul was on the rack of impatience, and by some one bold stroke I resolved to complete my happiness, though at the hazard of my utter ruin for ever.



CHAP. IX.

Consult with Dick on the speediest way to establish my fortune. — I propose the gaming-table. -- He disfuades me from this rash step, and goes out surgeon in a privateer. — I assume the garb of a gentleman-commoner from Oxford, and introduce myself at a dutchess's house. - Have a run of luck, and prefent my mistress with a gold repeater.—Wager two hundred guineas on the recovery of a peeress from a burning fever, and lose it. Tofs up with a young lord for one hundred pieces, and come off a looser.—Decline in my fortune daily, and am ruined by the villany of Raily. - My affecting farewell with Sophy.—We interchange mutual vows of love.

N consequence of this resolution, I consulted with my companion in order to bring matters to bear directly:

Vol. III.

I for

for I told him feriously, I must either be totally happy, or completely miserable in a short time; the situation of my mind being fuch, that life in that condition was insupportable. My money, I found, with the additional supply of Railv's, and my share in the privateer, amounted to barely four hundred pounds; for I had no way confulted economy fince love had possessed my foul. I thought the tedious methods of privateering were inconsistent with the then state of my finances; and, after seriously weighing the matter pro and con. I resolved to make a bold stroke at the gaming-table, and bring the affair to a speedy conclusion.

Dick did all he could to persuade me from this rash step, setting forth the infinite hazards I ran of being overreached by sharpers, who, having made this business their whole study, were consequently much superior to me in every article of advantage: he observed.

rved, that it would be better to exlain the whole state of my affairs as ney really were, and trust to the strength f the young lady's love for the event; nd that, if I should chance to have a in of ill luck, it would only entail the nore misery upon me, in regard that I nust then be at a still greater distance com her in point of fortune. But my eart was too proud to listen to this sholesome admonition, which certainly sas the best at that juncture, and I rearded the proposal with abundance of issance.

What! faid I, shall I be guilty of uch a meanness, after having carried hings to so great a length? after having ngaged her affections, and been blessed with a full declaration of consenting ove, to own myself an impostor? a nean, mercenary, interested villain? Shall he, whom my soul adores, think I have only put on the garb of a gentleman to betray her to infamy and want,

under the specious appearance of a welldiffembled paffion? What opinion can the have either of my œconomy, or judgment, who shall live at fuch a rate as I have done, without any fettled income, but fpending an inconfiderable fum which is my all? Will she not think, that the man who shall take for little care of his own money, will be as regardless of hers, when once he has got both the command of it and her person, under the new acquired title of husband? If this is the best advice you can give me, even keep it to yourfelf. No, let me rather languish under the miseries of a hopeless love for ever, than by an action, dishonourable to my soul, attempt to impose on the loveliest of her fex, in fo base a manner. That man only fancies himself in love, who can be capable to act fo mean a part: he may indeed be faid to be in one shape in love, but then it is felf-love; it is all centered in his own gratification; and, provided he can only pleasure himself

in the enjoyment of a happiness which at the best in this case must be but short lived, he has otherwise very little regard to the fatisfaction of his mistress. who must feel some very painful senfations on fuch an occasion. If I was to do as you advise me, how do you think we could long support it, without breaking in upon her fortune, which, at all events, must be kept inviolably facred? My paultry trifle would hardly be sufficient to furnish out a house, and defray the necessary expences of a year; and I have experienced too much the inconstancy of fortune, and the roguery of mankind already, to risk any part of her happiness, on the shallow and precarious footing of trade, let the prospects at first be ever so delufive: and, God knows, we should make but a pitiful figure on the annual income of fixty pounds a year in fuch a place as London, and with a rifing progeny, if it so should please Providence to bless us with that mark of I 3 his

his favour, unless some method could be found to extend our revenue to at least four times that sum; so that, I fay, no more of this stuff for the future. The die is caft, and complete happinefs, or total mifery, must quickly be the confequence.

He was very much amazed at my strange and unaccountable notions, as he called them, which, he allowed, might indeed be honourable to the extent of the phrase, but were far from what the generality of lovers would assume at such a criss: but I was deaf to all his remonstrances, and trusting to my own fagacity, refolved to put my defigns in practice directly.

He now told me, that, as I had a share in a privateer, he was defirous to try his fortune by fea upon the fame bottom, if I could get him admitted in the station of surgeon, for which birth he reckoned himself duely quali-

fied.

fied. This I promifed very readily, and, the privateer failing foon after, he was, at my inftigation with the owners, made furgeon of the ship, and at parting with him, I made him a present of twenty guineas, in order to see himself out the more genteely.

All this time I was not idle: I had by the mere dint of application, and a little money, procured admittance among very genteel company at a certain dutchess's house, and, by dressing extremely gay, found means to pass for a rich young commoner from the university of Oxford. Here I gamed almost every night, and, after a vast fluctuation of fortune, at the end of three weeks, found myself two hundred pounds in pocket. This fuccess elated me. I thought it incumbent on me to make the idol of my foul a handsome present, which I soon after did, by obliging her to accept of a very fine gold repeating watch of fixty guineas I 4

value; at the fame time telling her, that I was in hope, the happy time would foon arrive, when I should be blessed in the enjoyment of her amiable company without alloy. She received this token of my esteem like herself; observed, I had no occasion to manifest the reality of my love by any more such actions for the future, as she was fully assured of the purity of my slame; and, after a little modest dissiculty, conferted to bless the impatience of my heart with the endearing transports of a charte embrace.

In eight days time I had augmented my store in ready money, to full as many hundred pounds, and made no question of being completely happy before the expiration of the summer seaion. Could I, thought I to myself, but make it up two thousand pounds, I shall do my business, and leave off this trade, which is but hazardous at the best, for ever. On the strength of

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 177

so speedy a re-inforcement, I grew extremely elevated, and was continually forming parties of pleasure, in which the fifters had a confiderable share. took occasion to throw myself in the apothecary's way foon after, and gave him a glance of a five hundred pound bank note, which did not fail to dilate his opticks extremely.

I now and then attended the club as usual, harangued the citizens on trade, commerce, war, and destruction; canvassed the decline of our public credit to their universal satisfaction, and pointed out, from a theory of my owninvention, a fure and never-failing methed to establish the happiness of Great-Britain upon a lasting foundation. joined in with them very heartily in damning H-r to the pit of hell; agreed, that the Em-s Q-n was no better than a most infernal hellcat; and drank damnation to the public and private enemies of Old England. with

I. 5

with furprizing energy. In a word, I was looked upon in fo patriot a light by the whole club, that never any grand dispute was brought upon the tapis, but it was fure to be referred to my determination; when I always pronounced judgment, and decided the cause in question, with a shew of great impartiality, and very often, when I knew not one jot about the matter.

I likewise went on daily, paying my attendance at the levees of the great; very often taking a jaunt as far as Barnet, Ensield, or Uxbridge, with persons of great quality, with whom I would very genteely engage for some such triste as twenty guineas, who should draw out the longest straw from any thatched house in our way; and in these polite amusements had various success.

One day in particular I was to lay a hundred guineas with a nobleman of the

he first rank, on the tossing up of a jueen Anne's shilling: it turned out in is favour, and I paid the money with good grace, though it drained, in a nanner, my heart's blood.

Not long after this, I had the hoour to be engaged with a peer of the ation in a wager for two hundred pieces be determined by the life or death f a dutchess then dangerously ill under ne malevolence of a burning fever. is my compassion drew me to wish er among the number of the living, I ud my hopes on her recovery; but eath owed me a grudge this bout; for t the end of three days I was obliged deposit the full sum, not without eling the greatest anguish of mind, ad very heartily wishing her grace had en at the devil, rather than I had terested myself so dearly in her welre.

From

From this time, fortune, hitherto propitious to me, like a deceitful iilt. turned tail to my most pathetic remonstrances. I every day declined in temper as in circumstances, and could not endure the prying looks of my dear Sophy (who foon perceived this manifest alteration of my whole man) without shedding tears of blood. She tryed, by all the ways she could think of, to come to a knowledge with respect to the grounds of my discontent; but I eluded all her inquiries by pretending an indisposition, and a vexatious letter I had received from my friends in Scotland, about a trifling law-fuit then before the court of fession, and was likely to turn out against me.

I continued my destructive measures, however; and seldom a night passed, but I lost as much at the turning of a card, or the cog of a die, as would have maintained me in splendor for a month.

I now locked myself up in my chamber for whole days together, hardly ever coming down to any of my meals. regularly; and when I did come, my looks were so estranged to the whole company, that the very apothecary took notice of it, and demanded the occafion, while my dear Sophy was frequently obliged to feign a sudden illness, in order to conceal the falling tear. In vain did she conjure me by all the powers of love, by all our hopes of happiness, and mutual joys to come, to tell her the cause of my disquiet: I ftill put her off with some trifling evafions; and by my fruitlessly endeavouring to recall my good humour that was fled, gave her reason to be apprehensive, that my situation, in point of fortune, had taken some sudden I frequently secluded myself from all communication of the world for days together, and fometimes worked myself up to such woeful frenzy, that

that I was very often upon the point of ending my days by fuicide.

But while there was life, there was fame; and while one penny remained, I was residued to venture all, in hope of tempong formune to a fresh turn in my favour. I confidered, that, as I had loft all in the compass of a few verla . Tari Tike it up win or a case tot of occasional राज्य र अच्छे असूद्र राज्य लक्ष को ್ರಾಯ್ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಕ್ರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಿಕಿಗಳು -. n mai I wie wrie, wil briefie ಆಸಾತ್ರ ಎಲಿ ಮಾಳಿ ಹಾಡಿದೆ ಅರಂದ ಹಾಗೆ ರೇವ San a now, we wait to the ibergi le der um efte de tab made magnetick ne afficies l'ou formers fared . - da mod ligadia he diet ರಲ್ಲಾ ಚಿತ್ರವಾಳ. ಆಲಿ ಕೂಡ ಹಿಚ್ಚಾಡಿ rai par o me acarte, ay mai u sa reus en elet des milit

I always pretended to attribute to a violent cold in my head.

With this view I frequented a very famous billiard-table, where they always played high. I had not reforted to this den of ruin very long, before I found my friend Raily to be a considerable member there. Encouraged at this discovery, by which I had some thoughts of making all up again, I courted fortune with great affiduity; and, by betting upon his fide, and now and then a lucky hit of my own, I quickly got back again one hundred and fiftw pounds of my money. This return produced a most surprizing effect; I indulged a faint ray of hope to gleam. across my foul, and could look upon my angel with much less pain.

I was even so infatuated as to forget the many base actions of this man, whose heart was as black as hell, and suffer myself to be totally ruined by placing

the The Life and Absentuen

placing a blind dependance of the vilhan who had so often decrived me. I was an eye-winnels of his picking up great firms of money daily, and little ministrag, that one who owed his very life to my indulgence, could be fo bale as an entered my defirection, I fell into the four that was laid for me, and in an accurried motoment was herried to inimportable milery. My whole forture के जार पाल बाल विकास साम रहा भी uni im prince vien le gire de 10 unartum. Und in dat i kineme is is rumes n m séctul exem h and a same fewer of star to many and in a mass, to min for a क्षा जाता होता है जाताना, इस है। while the wat him, we will be has a reputate. Line inch ್ನ ಬರ್ಜ್ ಉತ್ತರ್ಣ ಅದೇಶ್ವರ ವಿವಿದ್ಯಾ Salar vo granjenih nak minus and it wick we fill when e est maters ame I was toe hannel ora hitt pounds a winder. I liked

his proceeding greatly, and resolved to mprove the present turn of fortune by loing the business in a most effectual nanner. My antagonist, who played with Raily, and against whom I betted, appeared a downright country squire, and doubled stakes every time, till by an accursed chance, I found my whole fortune depending upon the pocketing of a ball.

At this juncture the emotions of my foul were furious: this one chance either made a beggar of me, or master of one thousand pounds. The two last balls were already upon the table, and my whole faculties in a state of decadful suspence. Thrice had they struck alternately, and as many times by the most nice dexterity, evaded the conclusion. The attention of the company, many of whom were deeply engaged, was fearfully interested, and the two parties stript to their shirts: bets upon bets were continually augmenting, and two

two fellows present always took them up; till an effort of my antagonist pocketed the ball, and sent me motionless to the floor in a state of blissful insensibility.

When I recovered myself from this trance, I raved, stamped, and tore like a madman; and understanding from some present, that the sharpers had gone off with the booty, and they were of opinion, it was a designed thing, I pulled out a knife with intent to stab the villain to the heart, swore he had robbed me at two different times; and not finding the proper object of my refentment, turned my sury against myself, and it was with difficulty I was prevented from cutting my throat.

In this terrible condition I was fain to pawn my watch to raise money to go home in a chair. I entered the house in the most consummate distraction, and threw myself upon the bed in a transport

port of raging madness. My landlord was alarmed at my appearance, and sent his journeyman up stairs to bleed me: I met the lad half way upon the threshold, and with great fury kicked him down again to the very bottom. I tore my hair, beat my face, and in the extremity of anguish roared aloud like a criminal on the rack.

I continued thus all the night, and next morning was so altered, so faint for want of rest and nourishment, that I was hardly able to stand. I was in the agonies of eternal horror, when I confidered; that all my gay prospects were vanished; that my love, instead of diminishing, was increased tenfold fince this misfortune: and that all I had in the world to keep me from starving, beggary, infamy, and despair, was but barely ten guineas, which I had raifed on the pawn of my watch. Happily I had in the beginning made it a maxim to pay my board and lodging the first day of every



this last resource a cary came in one account, that, as gagement, the primand carried into l.

This was told. I turned pale with quivered on my lefuch a ghastly localmost congealed was now no long real cause of my

montened eve plai

gumea. I had no to confule myself what would turn if and this kept up m

1

of Hamilton Murray. 189

even forced to conceal the reason of her ears by attributing them to her sensibility, lest poor Dick Savage, who was on board the vessel, should have augmented the number of the slain. The landlord was greatly affected at his unhappy loss; his wife and daughters were the same; while my soul was agonized with anguish at beholding the sorrow of my dearest love.

In this distressful situation I was frequently obliged to carry out first one thing, then another, privately, in order to keep up appearances a little longer. My closet door was now always sure to be locked, my books vanished piecemeal, and my whole habit gradually put on the appearance of wretchedness and misery. In this melancholy situation, my dear Sophy would behold me with the deepest concern; her soul was upon the rack to come to an explanation of these strange appearances, and it was not without reason, that she concluded

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 191

been founded. The mother faid hing, but devoured me with her s: fhe furveyed my appearance with most fingular attention, and was quently heard to drop the epithets " ftrange and wonderful! unaccountable, shocking, and impossible!" ie maid was every now and then cing for my key to clean out the clo-, and I was frequently put to the ush of conscious shame, to be forced to env her this article; while the fifters ould take notice, with a fcornful nile, that it was not customary to lock p any part of furnished lodgings. In port, all were visibly estranged but y dear Sophy: she was still the same ind, indulgent foul as ever, and, by ne manifest change of her health, plain-, told how much she took these inignities, and my filence and appearance, t heart.

I now experienced, that I had staid were as long as I could: my money was

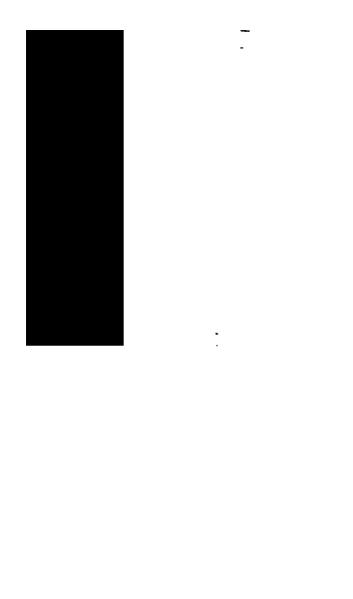
Francisco de la compansión de la compans

200

of Hamilton Murray. 193

that this was likely to be the case, mild I once take a final leave, I had reful reason to imagine.

Whilst, I say, that I was indulging He melancholy reflections, I thought seard fomebody outfide the door, and esently Miss Sophy entered with tears her eyes, and throwing herself into a air. accosted me thus: 'What is the reason, my dear Hamilton, for I will still call you by that loved name, notwithstanding your late unkindness in to obstinately concealing the cause of your distress; that you appear thus wretched in your attire, and meagre in your whole appearance? Where is that lively flow of spirits, that unbounded vivacity with which you used to charm every one into good humour? and why do you thus feclude yourself from the company of your Sophy, who used to be the delight of your eyes? If this amazing change proceeds from any unexpected blow Vol. III. ' of K



- s and endeavour to regain that quiet
- which I enjoyed before I was en-
- finared by your proffered love.'

Here she ended, and left me so moved at her kind and pathetic address, that for some minutes I had neither speech nor power of utterance. I beheld her in a tumult of filent woe: my bosom was filled with unutterable forrow at so mournful a conclusion of my fondest hopes; and falling at her feet in an agony of despair, Forgive, cried I, the wretch who has prefumed to deceive you! Fond of possessing your affections at any rate, I foolishly thought, that so much prudence, wisdom, goodness, and beauty, was to be won by an outfide appearance. I vainly fancied, that the gaudy pomp of dress might influence you in my favour, and basely passed for a man of good estate, when, alas! even before I was captivated with the lustre of your divine charms, my fortune was contemptible. Inspired with K 2 the

win The Life and Albertary

the topes of equalling you in point of circumitances, and mereby of manifesting the homourableness of my love, I went beword my shifties, and in finally withing to puffels your beauties. I have until hill then for ever : in to accorded manners: I was hurried to as extremity of delipar and min; and क्क वर्ष में हमानेष्ट, क्यांके क्लांक o o da I mar de armader vienes. The main and and the valid a e version di di desi figili Ce di imposi lare di

್ರಚಿಕ್ರಾಣ ಕಥ : ಹಿಚ್ಚಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಣ e a manata kinta limb**y** lada doda ne dang a kitaba atmen dala

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 199 "of mind also? answer me to that, and "I shall be satisfied."

I was so moved at this kind address, that I had only power to break out with, I love thee to diffraction! had I loved thee less, I might perhaps have been happy!

"Why then,' continued she, taking my hand in hers, ' from henceforth and for ever I look upon you as my husband; and this trifling loss, so far ' from lessening you in my esteem, has enhanced my value for you ten thoufand fold. I now plainly see your kind, your generous, and disinterested love; and I will patiently wait that happy period which shall put us both above the power of a scornful guar-'dian: and as I am painfully convinced of the unhappy reduction of 'your fortune, I beg you will give * me one convincing proof of your affection, by letting your Sophy, your · loving

hweing wife, minutes to your accellines, and himper your wares. If you mente me this sequent, I shall have him a very mean common of your promisions, and conclude, I have but a finall position of your love. So spring the pulled out a green filk purif, and poured drown one hundred and fifty quinces upon the table, telling me with a mail devotation finall. The fee, are near Francisco. I finall wake a to-

This would have transporting tells where property were the property form the very construction of the western from the engine where the property of the proper

I had some time before, from a knowledge of her princely generofity, foreseen such a proffer as this would be made; and I had all along avoided giving her an opportunity to put it in practice. I had, moreover, provided a sham draught upon a merchant in the city for fifty guineas, in order to deceive her into an opinion, that I had still some money left, in case she should do as I had conjectured; and now. when I found myself close pressed to accept of the money before-mentioned, I pulled out this note, and told her, that I had referred that from the wreck of my fortune, and had no occasion for any more at that time; that I had a very rich relation in Scotland, who always loved me, and on whom I had great hopes; and as I was now fo fituated. I was resolved to pay him a visit immediately, and had money enough to carry me down there, where I should always be sure of a supply; and that in case I was frustrated in my

K 4 views

throw myfelf upon her generofity, and become a humble fuitor for her love and charity; and concluded with begging her to prefs me no farther, for I could not receive any at that time.

She was greatly grieved at this my chilinary, as the termed it, and which the find was very ill timed: she observed, that fifty guineas might not be ilifficent to turny me ib long a fourrent and the Tea me to earneith to take in mai fifty rounds more, mar I was confidence to accept of that furn, notwiendamense my utmost endeavours to the comment. I then told her, that I could no longer stomach the infulting steers of the family, and was refolved to let out that very day, and would be ence this weeks, or two months at firebelt, that I would leave my few pictures in her care, and clear off with the apelicately at my return,

She consented to accept of this trust rith great pleasure; and after conjuring ne to come back again soon at all vents, we once more exchanged recirocal vows of eternal truth and conancy, and she went to her own apartment to avoid suspicion, while I went ut in a mixed transport of joy, sorrow, ove, and despair.



K 5 CHAR.

CHAP. X.

Resolve to amuse myself in a costerhouse. — Join in conversation with
two sea-officers, which occasions my
embarking in a perilous adventure.—
We enter the harbour of Havre de
Grace on the count of France, and
our our a rich St. Domingo-man.—
Armye farely with our prize at Portimount, which we dispose of to good
account — My fortune is made by
this expedition.

Had not advanced three paces from the firest - door, before my heart parted to go back again, that I might kee her case more. I turned short round to take another look at the dear champer - window that contained the daying of my soul, and perceived the sweet goal at the calement gazing after me.

me, with her handkerchief in her hand, and her eyes red with crying. The fight of the dear object in tears so affected me, that I was ready to faint. I could stand it no longer, but, bowing in silent adoration, made the best of my way from the transporting charmer of my bosom, and wandered about for some time I knew not whither, till at last I determined to step into some coffee-house, the better to recover my spirits by perusing the papers of the day.

For this purpose I entered the Antigallican behind the Change, and began to consider what step I should take next. My journey to Scotland was no more than a seint, the better to deceive her, as to the real cause of my absence; and I thought, that as my circumstances were then situated, it would be the most cruel thing in the world to marry her, since I had no way to ma ntain her as I could wish. The interest

of her money, as flocks then flood, was no more than fixty pounds per annum, which would never do to defray the excess of probably a rifing family, in fuch a place as London, where the year of a mierable house would amount no near half the furn, and the articles of conting confume three fourths of the remander. And I could not brook the manning is her the idea of any heart actual form a war of the with we are one or north mean factors. ere ememore and any array residents etran i : mine vinee, parkin er minerale l'en met who was man name du l'aggre Be ica i wa kaina mu i bi m sur manner der fortage die truck, ווות על עבוד מונג למו משבת בחבר על מונג rui de la lanció littem a ida-_____



Box engaged my whole attention. Savs one of them, 'Could we but get one "fubscriber more, the business is done." "Ay," replied the other, "but really this adventure appears fo hazardous in the eyes of unexperienced landmen. that we may trifle away the whole fea-' fon, before we can get any body who e may be willing to run the risk: but we that know the English channel so well, and are fo thoroughly acquainted with all the harbours along the coast of France and Brittany, would fairly risk our lives upon the execution of it, as this is just the time to snap up 4 some of their rich homeward Martiinico or West-India men.

As every thing, wherein there appeared the least prospect of advantage, let the means to come by it seem ever so perilous, could not fail to arouse me at such a juncture, I listened to their subsequent discourse, and soon found, that the affair in question was no other than

in little o in the fee in 1 2 2 IN THE PERSON THE PERSON NAMED IN * ** ** ** ent exist & la THE RESERVE Mr. Mr I TETO - The Therman 1 THE PERSON NAMED IN MENTE E | 1 1 TO an disk minister . u. d. 21. nis (20 CH 20 3 THE SHAPE

• whereby much may be made, and not *a great deal lost. The patriot enegages in it, not merely from a profreet of advantage, but rather with a view of distressing the enemy, in the * very fupport of their conflictation, by · flackening the finews of war, in the destruction of their trade: the bold. daring fons of Britain, who find them-· selves, from a thousand various causes. " upon the brink of destruction. By to * this method, as the last resource from bankruptcy, beggary, and jails; and the flower of our seamen join in it, 'as a fure means of avoiding the inconveniencies of a man of war. Nay. many of our ladies, from a truly Amazonian principle, chuse rather to expend their money this way, than in the destructive measures of a gaming ' table; and by the spirit they exert on ' this occasion, plainly denote, that the fouls of women are heroic, brave, and egenerous, when not too much curbed and kept under by the injurious re-ftrictions

e must be sup · large private with that fuc pected, not hable to the a also are render from their nu day multiplyir. Great Britain, c fropose to pur one of those sm ing boats, wh plenty in the ri cient store of p ammunition, on the coast of Fran the better carry c is to cut out one



• language, dreffed up like French fisher-• men, and who are resolved to fight to • the last drop of their blood before they will fuffer themselves to be made prifoners. The subsequent part of this • adventure is to take the advantage of the night, and trust the rest to Providence. Four hundred pounds is the fum wanted: a banker in the city has fubscribed one, this gentleman and myself each of us one, and there s is just one more necessary. We have a vessel in our eye, which will answer to admiration; and we can have our complement of men made up at a day's warning, fo that we can be ready to proceed to fea in three days, after * the subscription is filled up.

At the hearing this last piece of intelligence, my heart was ready to break. My whole stock amounted to no more than the fifty guineas, which my dear Sophy had forced upon me at parting, and which I now pulled out in a trans-

210 The Life and 2

port of grief, declaring and I liked their good and behaviour fo well, fo happy as to have had of the necessary sum, I have joined in with the fure, but also accompanies fon, and fought to the blood in my veins for the glorious a point.

This shocking disapped fuch an effect on my spirit drops of sweat ran down me in taking out my handkers them off, I thought I felt something in my pocket, when not recollect to have been to morning. Upon examining tents of this unexpected by aftonishment was unbounded myself master of one hundred more, enclosed in a filk hand with a note in my angel's description.



enake any remonstrances against its acceptance, she should take it extremely to heart, and would conclude I did not love her. When I began to look back on our transactions in the morning, I directly conjectured, that she had watched an opportunity to ship it into my pocket unperceived.

This second instance of her unbounded love made me ten times more fixt in my resolves than before. Yes, thou dear extatic charmer, cried I aloud, I will go: thy timely present shall be improved to such advantage as France shall rue, or I will fall in the attempt; and who knows but Providence may enable me to pay thee back this store of goodness ten thousand fold.

Having vented myself in this manner, I turned to the adventurers, and observed, that I had met with the most unexpected windfal, and provided they would go with me to the banker's, that I might

I might be fatisfied as to the identity of this affair, I would fill up the fubscriprion directly. They were very glad to hear of this my refolution, and with great pleafure attended me to a very eminent banker in the city, who fatisfied me fo much about the bufinels, as also of the character, courage, and abiliev of the two gentlemen, who, he observed, had been employed by him very forcesfully on a former occasion, that I made no farther scruples, but paid down the money immediately, and in three days after we were all ready for failing. When the time came that we were to embark, I was in a thousand main whether I should go without Seeing School, on by indulying myfelf to to a pleadure, run a rick or enervating er eine, that was now inspired with ilm-ling courage, into downright effemore At lait I determined for the former, and numing my hopes in a Led Providence, who feldom falls to reward true lovers in the long run, I indulged

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 213 Aulged myself in the happiness I should

have of feeing her, perhaps in a few weeks, mistress of several thousand pounds.

We failed quite down to the nore, with a fair wind, which, continuing in gentle breezes, wasted us to the downs in a short time. Here we brought to a little, to put every thing in-readiness, and consult on our future plan of procedure. In consequence of this we determined, with one accord, to make over directly for Havre de Grace, and take a look into the harbour, under the appearance of a French lug-sail cutter, where, if any thing appeared worth our trouble, we were then to proceed to action.

The nearer we advanced to the shore, the more was my bosom filled with anxiety, love, joy, and despair. The image of my beloved Sophy presented itself to my teeming imagination in the most endearing attitudes, and the delightful

Selected pleasures attending an union with that charming girl, engraffed my whole attention. Ah! thou lovely patmen of beauty, cried I, thou wooderhis manufement all earthly perfection! can I include the thought of ever enswing the fiven convertation, of lifering to the access of the including more of bearing thee kindly movie a mutual return of love, and feftly did-त्य प्राच्याचिक में मोलकांसं क क्क कि किया कर का बार THE PROPERTY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE Ta I am and vil medi the attention the Living owner less a क राज्या क्या वेषा के क्या के के के <u>ಭಾರಾ, ಇದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರುವಾದ ನರ್ವ ಚಿ</u> tille vien frame mer dinver de er la kaine a roce or a mi en legge dem man madel prins, grafig vines manag has in latinia no posta o il ne soi nome, ni monifica o il ne soi nome, ni क्र काटना का लेगे इस्स्मार हो स च्याताह : याध्युष में महि वर्षम हिन्स 217

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 215 may the pangs of hopeless returns of affection, inflamed by jealousy and despair, for ever be my portion?

By this time it was bordering upon the dusk of the evening. We were just in shore, a fine off-land breeze, and upon the very verge of high water. In consequence of these favourable circumflances, a small skiff was hoisted out, in which two bold fellows embarked. to row in towards the harbour of Havre de Grace, and reconnoitre. They had not been long gone, before they returned with the joyful news, that a large merchantman had come in that tide. and was then lying upon her moorings in the mouth of the river. Upon this agreeable tidings we immediately called a councel of war, wherein it was unanimously determined, to make in directly for the harbour, and by affuming the language of the country, endeavour to persuade them, we were chased in by an English privateer of great force, and beg



in have a mai from and from (our complement ready as a minulation the French periodials of a They allemed to readingly hid as morrage, and a

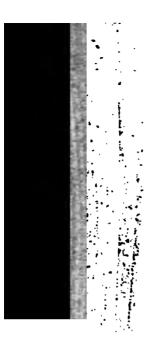
How my her noted minute, in: Now consister a and this consist to make me has or exemply min

The uniforki



ad eat plentifully of the best, and resunted the perils they had undergone their paffage home from St. Domina, in which they had been chaced by vo thirty gun privateers for the space feighteen hours; 'but,' continued a seagre old fellow, 'we shewed the English dogs our paint-work, and I fancy some of them will have reason to remember the operations of our Atern-chace for one while.' By means af this intelligence we understood, that their cargo confifted of indigo, sugar, and coffee, and was upon an average, worth forty thousand pounds, being one of the largest that had sailed from my of the French islands that season.

The Frenchmen, who, during their coming in with the land, and course up the channel, had experienced but very little rest, now they found themselves safe in a harbour, and void of all care, gave a loose to that indulgence which the present opportunity gave them, and Vol. III. L which



was to be feen ab the favourable o along so earnest! into our own vest other; and took arm ourselves, li with swords of st fire-arms, that Frenchman.

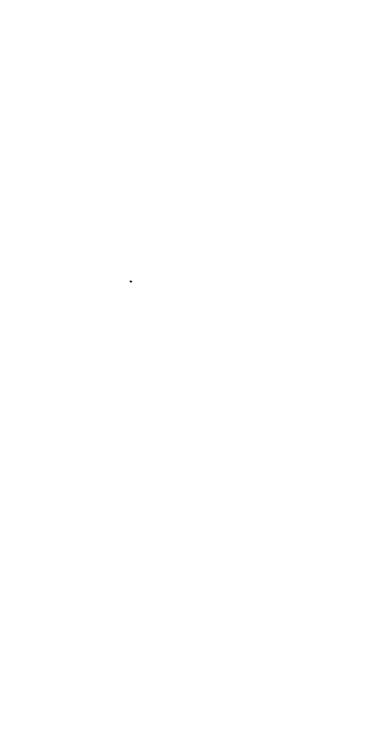
As nothing is any case of imporhappening in one effectually overthre scheme) we resolve Our captain, like upon the Frenchm



of Hamilton Murray. 219 with the pleasing prospects of making his fortune by this push; but love, boundless love, inspired my soul with redoubled ardor.

The captain had no sooner imparted the signal to me, than I, in course, communicated it to the commander of the forces on board the cutter, who sprung up with his detachment immediately, and secured the sew hands upon deck, swearing, that the first man, who should presume to speak one word, should be sent to hell immediately.

When we had effected this material circumstance, our next care was to point a great gun down each hatchway, loaded with grape shot, in case of an insurrection below decks; with a man armed with a cutlass, four brace of pistols, and a lighted match, in order to fire at a moment's warning. The tide of ebb was just now begun, so that we went to work immediately,



of HAMILTON MURRAY. 22-1 but the least motion to the contrary, would certainly do his business.

At this woeful tidings he burst into tears, made the whole ship resound with his doleful lamentations, and told me, that he was ruined for ever, as he was not only a part-owner in the ship, but had also his whole fortune embarked on board: but my attention was too much engrossed with my own concerns, to mind those of any body else, more especially an enemy; and, in the thought, that better he in his then situation, than I in my former one, I indulged myself over a bowl of punch on the glorious prospects before me.

Next morning, the welcome beams of daylight no sooner appeared than, to our infinite joy, we perceived the coast of England in full view, and about three leagues a-head. But our satisfaction was increased, when we observed two British men of war bound up the chan-

L 3 nel,



The memory of the country of the cou

The community of the co



warded my firm confidence in his goodnefs. In a fhort time, we disposed of our cargo to very good advantage, and found the whole sum amounted to forty thousand pounds clear of all deductions.

As by the articles of our agreement, the ship's crew were to have one fourth part of whatever prize we should take, ten thousand pounds fell to their share, and being twenty in number, they thought themselves extremely happy in sharing five hundred pounds a man for so little trouble. The other thirty thousand pounds were equally divided between my two ship-mates, myself, and the banker; in consequence of which I found myself master of seven thousand sive hundred pounds sterling.



L 4 CHAP.



Active in the gene press. It is spend for a control of the control

W HE!



Notwithstanding all the assurances of my dear Sophy's unalterable love in my favour, I could not help being very uneasy all the way, lest some one, during my absence, should have been smote with the lustre of her charms, and endeavoured to supplant me in my affections there. In this disposition of mind I entered London, when my first care was to convert as many of my bills as amounted to five thousand pounds, into bank notes of fingle thousands each. which I intended as a present to my dearest love. I next equipped myself in a very elegant manner, and, with my spirits in a state of universal exultation, explored my way to the apothecary's, which I foon reached, and as my quarter was not expired by some days, I knocked boldly at the door, and was let in by Mils Biddy, the youngest daughter, who no fooner perceived the magnificence of my dress, than she retired back in confusion, and I passed nimbly by her into the dear parlour, which L 5

which contained the treasure of my eyes. She was reading, and her companion, the elder Miss Brown, was so struck with conscious shame at my approach, that she quitted the room directly, and left us to the enjoyment of that happy minute.

At this welcome opportunity my foul was overwhelmed with floods of pleafure, and clasping her in my arms, Behold, cried I, thou dear, thou ravishing charmer of my transported heart! behold the man, who has passed seas for thy fake, who has faced the tremendous shores of a powerful enemy, and, in spite of Frenchmen, destiny, and death, has returned with fuch flores of boundless love and treasure, as shall make us happy for ever. Now will I manifest my eternal love: now shall my foul doat upon thy beauties, and sicken o'er the sweetness of thy infinite perfections: henceforth shall we live in joys unmeasurable as our love, and be a pattern for all lovers to imitate. No clouds



clouds of domestic discontent shall interfere with our happiness, or obstruct the fruition of our mutual bliss; but we will be one soul, spirit, and being, to all eternity.

My fweet girl was fo moved with this pathetic address, which I uttered with a fervency that shook my whole frame, that she had only power to sigh out, 'And are you come at last?' and has 'fate now done its worst?' and shall we 'yet be happy?'

Yes, thou angel of my eyes! replied I, our happiness is now beyond a power of doubting: henceforth no envious guardian shall part us: no scorn or contempt of a disdainful world shall molest us; but we will live a joy to ourselves, a blessing to our friends, and an useful branch of the community, till fruition shall be swallowed up in death, and a new scene opens, by that glorious

glorious passage, to usher us to joys

At this juncture the apothecary entered, who, perceiving me in the house, and in fuch gorgeous attire, was almost congealed to a stone. As in my then happy fituation, I was above entertaining any groveling notions of refentment, I faluted him with great cordiality, observing I was come once more to take a dinner with him, after which I should be glad of a conference in private for a few minutes. He returned my compliments with great civility, inquired very courteoufly after my health during this last absence, and, by degrees, we were re-instated in our former tranquility.

During the time of this repail the mother gazed at me with surprize and wonder; the daughters were confounded at my magnificent appearance, and, by some side-glances at Miss Sophy, testissed

testified well enough the workings of their invidious souls on this occasion.

After dinner I begged the favour of a few words with my landlord in his closet, where I set forth my unbounded love to his beauteous ward, with the sum and extent of my finances; and, after observing I would settle all her own fortune upon her, and five thousand pounds of my own, desired his consent to our union.

At this declaration he affured great uneafiness, and sunk into his former doubts and suspicions, but concluded by acquainting me, that if I could make it appear I was actually in possession of the fortune I mentioned, he should be very far from being any obstruction to our desires; till when he begged to act in such a manner as became the part of a faithful guardian, watchful over the child of his deceased friend, and worthy the trust reposed in him.

I was

I was fo far from being displeased at this behaviour, that I approved of his precaution greatly; and taking him to my banker, soon convinced him to a demonstration, that I was no impostor, at which he testified much joy, and congratulated me very heartily on my coming happiness.

At supper I entered into the spirit of the conversation with much freedom; and the affair being no longer a secret, our repast was no sooner ended, than they very genteely left us to ourselves, to include over the glorious prospects before us.

When I found myself at liberty to speak my sentiments with freedom, I gave way to the emotions of my heart, and communicated the whole of my proceedings since our last parting, at the conclusion of which I put the bank notes into her lap, and conjured her to bless the impatience of my love by consenting

to our marriage in a few days, during which interval I would take the opportunity to invite a few felect friends to be present on that joyful occasion.

She received this token of my love, in a manner as both shewed she understood the value of the present, and that she was not under any surprize at this additional instance of my goodwill in her favour. She took notice. that as fo short a time remained before fhe was to be mine for ever by the laws of God and men, she was resolved to give me an early specimen of her duty and obedience, by chearfully fubscribing to my will in all things; and, gazing upon the moon, which then shone forth in full lustre, observed with a most inchanting accent, 'Who knows, my ' dearest husband, but if we act our e part in this portion of time like good christians and lovers of virtue, but * we may hereafter be bleffed with each ' other's

other's company in the world of spirits, and be enabled to comprehend fome of those stupendous bodies, which our present organs are unable of understanding? This is a thought I have often indulged with great pleafure since your absence, and comforted myself, that if it should have pleased God to separate us here, yet christianity affords a glorious prospect hereaster, when we might perhaps be blessed in each other's society without alloy.'

Exalted girl! cried I in a transport of incomprehensible joy, what a thought is here! and how greatly thy understanding, beauty and virtue charm my soul, is impossible to express, and time can only display. Yes, my Sophy, we shall live here, only to live hereafter; and when death approaches, we shall only look upon it as a closing the scene of a long course of dull, tasteless insipidities,

pidities, and an entrance to a new species of beings, where our faculties shall be enlarged to understand the amazing productions of our bounteous Creator. As daily experience shews us, that some animals have one fense only, others two. fome three, and gradually ascending to five, which is the fummit; is it not natural to think, that man in his new station shall receive large additions of understanding, as incomprehensible to him now, as the blind or the deaf are incapable to conceive the bleffings of those precious senses, which they never enjoyed? We shall then, my dearest Love, by the wonderful power of God, be enabled to transport ourselves with as much ease from one place to another, as our imaginations can now play; or the motion of any part of our bodies is performed by our will, and the immediate influence of animal spirits. How great then must be our joy, when we shall find ourselves capable

capable of entering, perhaps, the very body of that glorious luminary the fun? of exploring the wonders of its mechanical movement, and understanding the fixed laws, by which the Great Creator regulates the universe? Then, quick as thought, traverse from pole to pole, measure the distance of ten thoufand leagues in a moment, and datt with incredible agility through the wide expanse; still finding out new subjects to exercise our wonder, gratitude, reverence, and love, to that infinite Majesty, who has raised us to fuch immense happiness. Who that can indulge fuch conceptions but for a moment, would ever be guilty of a willful crime? But mortality is frail, and Jehovah knows it; he will not lay more to our charge, than we can well bear, and hath provided a glorious Saviour for fallen man, to whom be the highest praise our lowly minds can expreis, for ever. Thefe

These thoughts had such an effect on us both, that with great servour we implored the Almighty to endue us with such a portion of his grace, that we might be enabled to avoid doing any thing displeasing in his sight, and live as became not only members of society, and rational beings, but also creatures so wholly dependent on his will, that we could not exist for one single moment without his immediate protection and providence.

Having discharged this duty, we parted for that night; and by mutual consent, our marriage was fixed for the first of May, which was then within the distance of sive days.

I now wrote a letter to my two companions in Portsmouth, with an invitation to come up to London immediately, as I was desirous of their presence at my marriage; and I was not a little.

little glad to find my friend Dick Savage had escaped all perils, and, after a long imprisonment, at last come over in a cartel-ship. This rencounter delighted me vaftly. I introduced him to my Sophy, who was very glad to fee him alive, after having taken it for certain he was dead, and confented to honour him by giving her away at the All things conspired to ceremony. render my happiness complete: only companion I esteemed, so wonderfully faved; my two bold ship-mates and fellow-adventurers already in town; my heart full of love, and my Sophy as blooming as ever.

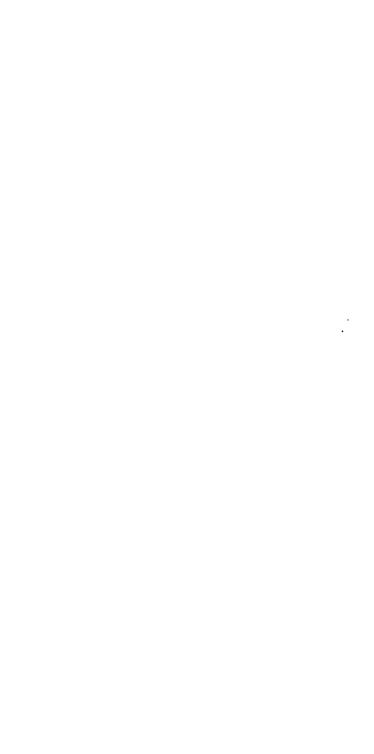
But there was still a stroke of Providence behind, which overpowered me with silent adoration.

The day before that which was to render me the happiest of mortal beings, chancing to take up a news-paper, the fol-

of HAMILTON MURRAY. 237 following paragraph struck me with the first glance of my eye:

- " If Hamilton Murray will call upon
 - " Mr. Guy Osborn, attorney at law,
 - " in Garden-court, in the Temple,
 - " he will hear of something greatly:
 - 4 to his advantage."

What can this be? thinks I, furely my worthy uncle has not given way to the dictates of honour, justice, and conscience, and made me a full restitution! If he has, it will be the better for his departed foul. It is one thing to live in the commission of sin, during the pride of health and strength of a robust constitution; but it is quite another matter to face the Almighty with loads of crimes, unrepented of; and certainly he must have been convinced, that repentance without restitution, when it is in our power, is useless. A sickbed, and an awful looking forward, are the



Upon inquiring into the circumances of this amazing turn, he inormed me, that my brother had been n board the navy many years; that ne had been abroad in the East-Indies. and acted as a confiderable officer under Admiral Watson, at the overthrow of the Nabob, and the defeat of Angria the pyrate, by which means he had become mafter of the forementioned fum: and having received a wound abroad, he had come home for a cure, but the hurt turning to a mortification, had carried him off foon after his arrival in London, where he had made great inquiry after me to no purpose, and at last left me all by his will. So saying, he delivered the same into my hands, wherein fuch tender and brotherly mention was made through the whole, that I could not think of his mournful catastrophe without shedding tears.

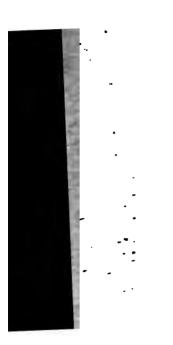
I now

I now told him of my expedition to the coast of France, my success, and the near arrival of my marriage, all which he congratulated me upon, and accepted my invitation to our wedding very chearfully; after which I took my leave for that time, lost in amazement at the ways of the Almighty, who can so amply reward the least turnings of his creatures from the paths of wickedness to virtue.

This unexpected good fortune made a new man of me quite. I could not think of the bounty of Providence to fo undeferving a creature, without feeling the most lively gratitude and thankfulness. What am I, says I, that I should be thus distinguished with such a superfluity of good things, when the cry of dearth reigns through the land, and the poor starve for bread! Is there any one action of my life that is not fraught with folly and sin? and can I behold



behold the miseries of my fellow-creatures with a hardened eye, and unrelenting heart? No, henceforth will I endeavour to discharge my duty as a christian and a man, that I may fill up that space, which heaven has allotted me, as becomes me, and is my duty fo to do. And though I cannot accuse myself of having committed any crimes of a heinous nature, yet so it is, that, through thoughtlesness and inattention, I have done very little to aspire to the character of even a rational being. I have often wept at another's woes, or even at an imaginary scene of distress, and have laboured under very difagreeable fensations, while under the pressure of unmerited obligations from a fellowcreature, till I had an opportunity to discharge the same. Shall I then be uneasy, if a mortal man but oblige me, till I have repaid him in course, and can I be infensible to the favours of an infinitely bountiful Majesty from whom Vol. III. M all



mer n ev Mak mer film. Lengte vil e tit eng name mer and a mer be a s

behaved like herself on this occasion. Modesty, virtue, humility and love shone conspicuous through her every word and gesture; and I received this precious gift of heaven at the altar, with a heart replete with joy, and not unmindful of the bounteous Giver.

At this completion of all my hopes, tears of joy gushed from my eyes, my heart was as open as the muniscent dew of heaven, and there was not a jail in London, but felt the effects of my first step of reformation.

The ceremony was no fooner performed, than I took all the company to a small but neat country-house I had provided against this occasion; and embracing my trembling Sophy with a kis of extatic rapture, threw my government securities of my whole fortune into her lap, to the infinite amazement of herself and all present, except M 2 my

my good friend the assumey, who now cleared up the whole mythery by relating the death of my brother.

And the second process of my many one in a I complimental him was fire tunified points as a token of my was fire tunified points in many with the fire the firme in the finding with the fire the firme in the finding of a sumparison, tall demething finding turn can to his advantage, when I would not find to derve him to the annual of my power.

In was not long after this, that I had a very alarming influence of the unnancomanie was of Providence. The apertments, who had all along been resource a man of good contumitance, had a climite of bankruptcy taken out against

against him, which so broke his spirits, that he fell into a lingering disorder, and soon after died. It seems his unbounded avarice had prompted him to engage in various branches of business, exclusive of his trade, which had brought on his ruin.

His wife, finding herself reduced from a state of affluence to pinching poverty, sickened at the reversion, and followed her husband soon after; and their children, by their parents death, became objects of compassion, and worse than common beggars, as they had, by their pride, rendered themselves odious to all their companions, who, as is general in such cases, took that opportunity to insult their distress, and pay back their former scorn with augmented interest.

But mark the effects of an ill-timed pride! Finding all resources cut off, and that

that they had no other profpect but coming upon the parish, they had recourse to my Sophy, took shame to themselves, and implored her relief and pardon. That angelical creature, far from repaying them in turn, or upbraiding them with former actions, received them both with a good grace, testified her forrow at hearing of the death of her good guardian and his wife, and promised to intercede with me in their favour.

This she did so effectually by reprefenting their pitysul case in such a light, that, notwithstanding all my refentment, I could not hear it from the mouth of my dearest Sophy, without being greatly moved. She obferved, they were the companions of her early youth; and, though they had some little skillings, who was without them? affliction was a bitter pill, and would effectually work a thorough cure.

Thele



These reasons prevailed; I received them both into my family, dried up their tears, and promised to be a friend to them for the future.

The eldest I disposed of soon after to a young farmer, on a small estate I had purchased in Bucks, and gave him three hundred pounds with his purchase. The youngest, who was actually a girl of sine sense, has since made a wise to my friend Dick, who married her, and my dear Sophy did not fail to shew her generosity on the occasion.

We have fince taken up our abode in the country, where we daily employ ourselves in the pleasing duty of relieving the poor around us, who watch the motions of my blooming Sophy as their guardian-angel.

Serene pleasures crown our days, and our nights are blessed with that happi-

happiness which transported lovers only know, and which the libertine, in all his round of sensual delights, never once experiences, nor has even a remote idea of.

FINIS.

CONFIX HAD CONFIX HAD CONFID CONFID



. .

•

·

,

.

